

66th International Rostrum of Composers

San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, May 14–18, 2019

Polish Radio 2



FOT. BARTOSZ BARCZYK

COMPOSER

Sławomir Kupczak (b. 1979)

TITLE

Halny for electronics and improvising flautist (2017)

Dedicated to Ewa Liebchen

Duration: 14'16"

PERFORMER

Ewa Liebchen, flute, bass flute, piccolo

RECORDING

July 5, 2018, Polish Radio Studio 4

DESCRIPTION

Halny for electronics and improvising flautist

The 'halny' wind is caused by large differences of air pressure between one side of a mountain ridge and the other, when a high-pressure system occurs on the south side and a low-pressure system on the north side. In this composition, the 'difference in pressure' is reflected in the juxtaposition of ostensibly incongruous sounds and structures of early music, pop, 'alternative' music and dance music, and consequently the polarisation—on the aesthetic, stylistic and technical levels—of the graphically notated sound structures that form the basis for the flautist's free improvisation and the precisely 'notated' computer part. [Sławomir Kupczak]

The composer has been working with flautist Ewa Liebchen for several years. *Halny* is their latest musical encounter, following *Res Facta* and *Analogy 2*, recorded on the disc *Res Facta* (Bôlt Records, 2015). The open graphic notation of the flute part results from the special relationship between the composer and the performer, who have an excellent mutual understanding.

The 'halny' wind is an elemental force; it is air. Air is also the language of my instrument. In this work, there are many sounds bordering on murmurs, wheezes, aspirations, harmonic eruptions and multiphones, as well as uses of the human voice ranging from singing to bellowing. The instrument also shows its more percussive side, with key clicks, pizzicato notes and tongue rams. Everything that can be heard in my part was gathered solely by microphones—nothing was subjected to electronic processing or montage. And although there are few classical flute sounds here, the flute displays its full range of capabilities. [Ewa Liebchen]

COMPOSER

Sławomir Kupczak

Born 1979 in Wrocław, he studied composition and computer music, as well as theatre and film music, at the city's Karol Lipiński Music Academy. His works have represented Polish Radio at the International Rostrum of Electroacoustic Music in Rome (2004), International Rostrum of Composers in Paris (2006, 'young composers' category) and Palma Ars Acustica in Berlin (2015).

He composes solo, chamber, symphonic, electroacoustic, film and stage music, including pieces for such artists as Agata Zubeł (*Akwaforta [Etching]* for female vocals, ocarinas, recorder, tape and computer, 2002; *Et cetera* for vocals, wind instruments, string quartet and computer, 2005; *Diva* for soprano and string quartet, 2019), Andrzej Bauer, Ewa Liebchen, Cezary Duchnowski, Cikada String Quartet and Tech-no Orchestra.

He has received commissions from the 'Teatr Wielki' Polish National Opera in Warsaw, 'Warsaw Autumn' Festival, Polish Society for Contemporary Music, ISCM World Music Days in Wrocław, NeoQuartet, Foundation 4.99, City of Wrocław, Polish Composers' Union, Polish Radio Experimental Studio and Friends of 'Warsaw Autumn' Foundation (with financial support from the Ernst von Siemens Foundation).

His works have been performed at leading European and Polish festivals, including Warsaw Autumn, Musica Polonica Nova, Musica Electronica Nova, Sacrum Profanum (monographic concert), Audio Art, Premieres Festival, Contrasts (Ukraine), The Other Space (Moscow), 'Ohren auf Europa' Biennale der Neuen Musik (Düsseldorf), Velvet Curtain (Lviv), Synthèse (Bourges), Polska! Year (UK), Sonorities Festival (Belfast) and Prix Italia.