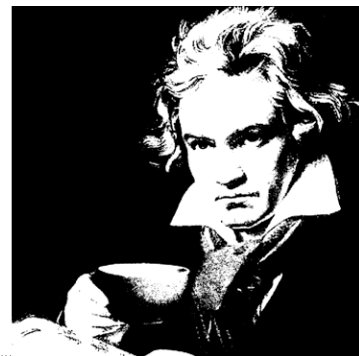


Church of BeethovenSM

www.churchofbeethoven.org

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2011 10:30AM
AT THE KOSMOS, 1715 FIFTH STREET NW, ALBUQUERQUE

#147



Ramona King | Storyteller for Black History Month

CELEBRATION OF SILENCE · TWO MINUTES

The Little Match Girl Passion (2007)

Words and music by David Lang (b1957)
after H.C. Andersen, H.P. Paulli, Picander and Saint Matthew

Santa Fe New Music

Michele Hemmings, soprano
Drea Pressley, mezzo soprano
Andreas Tischhauser, tenor
Steven Olivares, bass baritone
John Kennedy, conductor

Santa Fe New Music was founded by Artistic Director John Kennedy in 2000 and is recognized nationally as a leading presenter of contemporary music. SFNM is of flexible instrumentation and has presented over 50 premieres and commissions of composers of our time. For more information, visit www.sfnm.org

From David Lang: I wanted to tell a story. A particular story—in fact, the story of *The Little Match Girl*, by the Danish author Hans Christian Andersen. The original is ostensibly for children, and it has that shocking combination of danger and morality that many famous children's stories do. A poor young girl, whose father beats her, tries unsuccessfully to sell matches on the street, is ignored, and freezes to death. Through it all she somehow retains her Christian purity of spirit, but it is not a pretty story.

What drew me to *The Little Match Girl* is that the strength of the story lies not in its plot but in the fact that all its parts—the horror and the beauty—are constantly suffused with their opposites. The girl's bitter present is locked together with the sweetness of her past memories; her poverty is always suffused with her hopefulness. There is a kind of naive equilibrium between suffering and hope.

An interesting thing about how the Passion story is told is that it can include texts other than the story itself. These texts are the reactions of the crowd, penitential thoughts, statements of general sorrow, shock, or remorse.

My piece is called *The Little Match Girl Passion* and it sets Hans Christian Andersen's story *The Little Match Girl* in the format of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion*, interspersing Andersen's narrative with my versions of the crowd and character responses from Bach's *Passion*. The text is by me, after texts by Hans Christian Andersen, H. P. Paulli (the first translator of the story into English, in 1872), Picander (the nom de plume of Christian Friedrich Henrici, the librettist of Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion*), and the Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Today's Church of Beethoven is sponsored by **Donna Collins and Don McTaggart** recalling three decades of joyful musical listening and expressing our thanks to the many performers who made it all possible.

REMINDERS

Please silence electronic devices

Please do not use flash photography during the program

In the unlikely event of an emergency, please exit calmly. There are **2 exits**:
~ at the front to the right of the stage (stairs)
~ at the rear through the door you entered (ramp)

Mar 6 @ CoB Janáček

Mládi for Wind Sextet
Shana Blake Hill, soprano
Opera Southwest
Guest Artist
Mitch Rayes, poet