

network for **NEWMUSIC** presents

Saturday, February 17, 2024
7:30PM at Icebox Project Space
Philadelphia

Somewhere Beautiful **Natacha Diels**

This performance is a journey into a strange landscape occupied by sounds and images that are at once familiar and unknown, reassuring and unsettling. The works are divided into three acts — a brief overview of life-to-death (*Somewhere Beautiful*), an unraveling of cohesion through incessant rigor (*Untitled Art Piece*), and a directionless journey to a long golden road (*The God-Fearing Woodsman*).

Somewhere Beautiful is a story that begins in the abstract with a long instrumental build-up, continuing through a breakdown of technology (or revealing a computer's soul), and culminating in a series of short descriptive snapshots of beautiful things.

The piece continues in *Untitled Art Piece*, performed on a controller that I built in order to harness the complex geometric patterns created by geared drawing machines. I interpret these complex patterns through a series of switches, converting the perfect geometry into imperfect yet cohesive musical structures. Accompanying the music is a narrative emergent from the shapes created by the drawing machine.

The final movement of the piece, *The God-Fearing Woodsman*, is both a commentary on the human ability to derive meaning from repetition, and an exploration for the meaningful. Throughout the piece, a whispered voice provides helpful advice (“Take a deep breath”) and motivational words (“Reality can be like a fantastic hitchhike”) that have no relevance to the situation at hand, suggesting an omnipresent societal disconnect.

Pushed into the sometimes dark moat between absurdity and reality, I don't know whether to laugh, cringe, or cry.

Text is a combination of self-authored, the AI Inspirobot, and quotes from Led Zeppelin, Martha Wainwright, and Tom Waits.

Text excerpts:

Somewhere Beautiful

This is somewhere beautiful.

There is a mountain, and a moonrise.

There is not much shade.

There are many smooth heavy stones that are carved with letters or painted with pictures.

Sometimes, there are flowers.

Sometimes, there are birds.

On the other side, there is a bridge.

This bridge goes somewhere beautiful.

The God-Fearing Woodsman

Once upon a time, long long ago, there lived a God-Fearing Woodsman who was searching for a sapphire, the most precious of stones, on the plains, when he came upon a wealthy singer. “Dear wealthy singer, could you please tell me where a God-Fearing Woodsman, like myself, might find a sapphire, the most precious of stones, on the plains?” Immediately, the wealthy singer answered, “a sapphire, the most precious of stones, can only be found where you have not yet looked.” The woodsman was puzzled by the wealthy singer’s answer and continued on his journey.

Additional performers:

Helena Pylväinen
Levi Lu
Emma Mistele
Hanna Pylväinen

Network for New Music is proud to present Natacha Diels as our *Spotlight Concert Series* for the 2023-2024 season. To find out more about Network for New Music, including the amazing individuals and foundations who sponsor us, please visit our website:

www.networkfornewmusic.org

Or, scan this QR code:



Our 39th Season has two more events!

On April 21 at 2pm at Haverford College, we are presenting Eve Beglarian’s *A Murmur in the Trees*, a work for 24 bassists spread through the forest of the Haverford College Arboretum. This is truly one of the most spectacular performance experiences, and we are thrilled to be offering this work for the second year.

On May 5 at 3pm at Settlement Music School’s Mary Louise Curtis Branch, we are presenting *Unbreakable Beauty*, featuring works by local Philadelphia composers Ajibola Rivers and Rob Maggio, as well as internationally recognized composers Brittany J. Green and Ludmila Yurina. Information and tickets for both performances are available on our website, or find one of the Network staff after tonight’s performance!

We are in the midst of our Annual Appeal, and though we're more than 70% to our goal, we still have \$14,000 to raise. Please consider making a charitable donation.

www.networkfornewmusic.org