

WHIRLING DERVISHES

SOLO PIANO, AMBISONIC ELECTRONICS AND INTERACTIVE LIGHTING

COMPOSED BY SHIVA FESHAREKI

PERFORMED BY ZUBIN KANGA

Whirling Dervishes is a new 40-minute work by British-Iranian composer and turntablist, Shiva Feshareki, inspired by the ancient Sufi tradition where dancers spin until they reach a simultaneously meditative and ecstatic state.

The electronics were created out of Feshareki's spatial turntable improvisations, edited together and distributed into a 360° sonic space using cutting-edge ambisonic technology. The reinvented sounds of her previous compositions, cathedral choirs, warped pianos and Shiva's own voice swirl around the audience, infinitely transforming in a constant state of flux. At the eye of the maelstrom, the solo piano starts as a still centre, gradually building into tempestuous whirls of sounds. As an intrinsic element of the composition, there is a bespoke lighting display, linked to the movement of sound around the room, creating an immersive audio-visual experience for the audience.

Whirling Dervishes can also be performed in a duo version of variable length (18-50 minutes), with Shiva Feshareki performing live on turntables and electronics alongside Zubin Kanga on piano.





SHIVA FESHAREKI AND ZUBIN KANGA IN PERFORMANCE

Shiva Feshareki (1987) is a British-Iranian composer, artist and turntablist, described as “the most cutting-edge expression of turntablism” and as “one of the most astonishing acts of musical alchemy of the last decade” (BBC Radio 3’s Tom Service). Over the last decade, she has been a pioneer at the leading edge of both contemporary classical and electronic music scenes.

She holds a Doctorate of Music in composition from the Royal College of Music (2017), and is winner of the BBC Young Composer’s Award (2004), The Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize (2009) and the Ivor Novello Award for Innovation (2017). Shiva is currently a Visiting Fellow at Oxford University with the Electronic Music Practice Research group (EMPres) funded by The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities (TORCH), researching and presenting state-of-the-art spatial and ambisonic electronic composition.

She has performed extensively across the world in concert halls, art galleries, festivals and raves, with notable appearances at BBC Proms (Royal Albert Hall), The Tanks at Tate Modern, Southbank, Barcelona’s Sonar Festival, the Moscow Museum of Modern Art (VAC Foundation), Casa Del Lago (Mexico), Hyperreality Festival of Club Culture (Vienna), Maerzmusik (Kraftwerk, Berlin) and Hellerau (European Centre for the Arts).

Shiva has also worked alongside the London Contemporary Orchestra, BBC Singers, BBC Concert Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Ensemble Modern, Manchester Camerata, Netherlands Chamber Choir, Düsseldorfer Symphoniker, Haroon Mirza, Yoshi Sodeoka and Arlo Parks.

www.shivafeshareki.co.uk



Zubin Kanga is a pianist, composer, researcher and technologist. His work in recent years has focused on new models of interaction between a live musician and new technologies, including motion sensors, AI, VR, analogue synthesizers, new interactive instruments, bio-sensors, interactions with live-video, and internet-based scores.

Zubin has collaborated with many of the world’s leading composers and premiered more than 130 works. He has performed at many international festivals including the BBC Proms, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK), Melbourne Festival (Australia), Festival Présences (France), Klang Festival (Denmark), and November Music (Netherlands). Recent collaborations include those with Alexander Schubert on his internet-based *WIKI-PIANO.NET*, which has been performed in 24 cities and with Philip Venables on an upcoming concert-length work using pianos, keyboards, electronics and live video, exploring the life of artist David Wojnarowicz and his experience of the AIDS crisis in 1980s New York.

He is the Lecturer in Musical Performance and Digital Arts at Royal Holloway, University of London as well as the Principal Investigator and Director of Cyborg Soloists, a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship project exploring new music-technology collaborations between artists and industry.

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