

## Wim Henderickx - Triptych

*Lucas Huybrechts on cobra.be, 5 September 2014*

### Cosmos

Wim Henderickx's 'Triptych' serves as a beautiful example of recent work by one of our most productive contemporary composers in Belgium. The first from the set, **Nada Brahma**, is based on buddhism and is part of Henderickx's Tantric Cycle. Its inspiration goes back to eastern music whilst clearly being an example of the composer's style, which pleads to all parameters of an eastern inspired music.

Foremost the use of scales, mantras, and at the same time the obsessional, long hold chords, ethnic music. But Henderickx keeps enough distance with a more visual appealing music, many extra musical images touching our spiritual inner eye. Moreover, Henderickx succeeds in shaping spiritual content and abstract context. One could say he creates different mindsets. There is this shifting balance between creating an ambience and the pure theoretical form of more abstract consideration. In other words, the result is one of relaxing easy listening music, without - thanks to its writing- becoming a prosaic statement at all.

'Nada Brahma' is composed for his beloved ensemble, the Hermes Ensemble. A group of established Flemish musicians, who have a specific focus on creating new music. For this CD, the Hermes Ensemble is joined with soprano Hendrickje van Kerckhove, whose ethereal voice lifts us further from our earthly path. The use of electronics transcends us fully into the cosmos.

### Earthly

The second work from the set of three is more straightforward. On bass flute, played by the soloist of the Hermes Ensemble, Karin de Fleyt seems to improvise on a esoteric electronic drone. We hear the extraordinary textures of this undervalued instrument. With this, again a tendency to escape from the mundane. A big contrast with the title: '**On the Road**', based upon the novel by Jack Kerouac. Kerouac explored buddhism in his later works, although one remembers 'On the Road' merely as an adventure, an experiment with a less prolific need for spirituality.

Coincidence? Probably more a matter of synchronicity. Coinciding with the launch of Stephan Vanfleteren's book 'Atlantic Wall', Henderickx composes an oeuvre with the same title, both exploring the same subject: dilapidated bunkers along the Atlantic coast, which German troupes built against an invasion by the allies. The illustrative photos in this book comment effortlessly this music and vice versa. In '**Atlantic Wall**' one can genuinely hear the harsh contrasts, the sober deep black and white lines.

This work, again, represents a more earthly Henderickx, the percussionist he originally was trained as. Still, he succeeds transferring his own sound, with the many eastern aspects of spirituality. There is no coincidence about the occurrence of the four elements in the comments. As if the Germans who built those bunkers were philosophers. But it is Henderickx who observes and interprets.

This CD is full of synergy. The composer's preferred Hermes ensemble gives his sound world a profound content. A true discovery. The listener remains in deep thoughts with this beautiful music.