

Liis Viira

Book of Sand Grit

(2011/2012)



HARRI ROSPU

Book of Sand Grit (*Liivaterade raamat*) (2011/12) for solo harp, solo percussion, wind quintet and string quartet

Liis Viira:

In a book I recently thumbed, there was a mention of another book that has the same title as my composition. The book was said to be a collection of aphorisms. I haven't seen it myself, alas. However, the "imaginary book of aphorisms" lying on the conductor's stand contains, among others, the following aphorisms:

"Mountain and shadow"
"Up (even if just a semitone)"
"Shift"
"Runo-song-cloud"
"Secret island"
"Grain of sand = precious stone"

It's a journey into sand-grit structures. Each musical grain of sand in this piece is like an aphorism – the last link of a long chain of thought.

At the head of the score, as a hint or an indicator of mood, there're the words "Reminding Noh Theatre...", which suggest a certain cleanliness of gestures and surfaces, clear-cut-ness, inflexibility and abruptness, but at the same time also poetic qualities, represented by the – redolent of pipa's timbre – harp tremolo.

The composition was written for harp player **Tine Rehling** and percussionist **Christian Martinez**.

Performed by **Esbjerg Ensemble** (Denmark) and conducted by **Kaisa Roose**,

This recording is of the premiere performance of the piece on 22 March 2012, in the Estonia Concert Hall, at the festival Estonian Music Days 2012.

Liis Viira (b. April 7, 1983) is a composer, harp player and improviser. Her compositions are characterised by figurative thinking and translating the visual into music.

- In 2009 she graduated with a MA in harp performance, under Eda Peäske, from the Estonian Academy of Theatre and Music. At same, she furthered her training in composition with Helena Tulve and studied electronic music with Margo Kõlar.
- She has studied improvisation with Taavi Kerikmäe and Anto Pett; she performs improvised music on a regular basis.
- In addition to Estonia, Liis Viira's works have been performed in Latvia, Finland, Russia, Italy and Austria.
- She has performed her compositions herself on harp and piano.
- At present Liis Viira is a freelance composer. She plays harp with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra and is a member of the new music ensemble Una Corda (harp, kannel, harpsichord)