Irk Bitig

for contrabass paetzold and live-electronics

Onur Dülger
2018

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PROGRAM NOTES

Irk Bitig, known as the "Book of Divination" in English, is a manuscript book from the ninth century. The book is written in Old Turkish with the Old Turk runic script, is also an important source for early Turk mythology. Semantically, the piece deals with the culture of Central Asia. The player acts as Kam, a shaman in Tengrism, imitating the sounds of nature and leads the listener to a spiritual ritual.

In the piece, I’ve tried to find a balance between the nature of the instrument and independent musical ideas. The piece seeks to broaden the sonic potential of the contrabass paetzold by focusing on the dynamic nature of the playing techniques and changing them to evoke the instrument's softer soundscape. The live electronics, on the other hand, transforms the sounds in real time, and accompanies the instrument with the self-developed accompaniment voice. The live electronics are partially controlled by the characteristics of the sounds, the volume for example, of the paetzold, which are used in the manipulations and transformations of the instrument’s sounds. The piece was commissioned by ÖGZM and financially supported by "SKE / austro mechana".
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