

Sleeping Pendulum (2010) 9:45

Composer: María Huld Markan Sigfúsdóttir

Sleeping Pendulum for baroque violin and electronics was commissioned by violinist Halla Steinunn Stefánsdóttir. The work was composed in the winter of 2010 and was premiered in Iceland one frosty April day that same year. The pre-recorded electronic part weaves together sounds of bell chimes with the baroque violin in scordatura tunings, creating an accompaniment for the solo violin. The mellifluous solo violin writing shifts in and out of dependency on the accompaniment; sometimes hesitant and irregular, sometimes decisive and grounded.

Recording info:

Live recording from Dark Music Days in Reykjavik, in Harpa, January 2012.

Violin: Halla Steinunn Stefánsdóttir

Electronics: María Huld Markan Sigfúsdóttir

María Huld Markan Sigfúsdóttir (1980) started her musical studies at the age of five and began taking violin lessons two years later. She graduated as a violinist from the Reykjavik College of Music in 2000 and later went on to study composition at the Iceland Academy of the Arts, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in 2007.

As well as studying and composing her own music, for the past ten years María has composed and performed music all over the world with her band amiina, and collaborated with various other bands and artists, including Sigur Rós, Spiritualized, Lee Hazlewood, London Sinfonietta, Guy Maddin, Efterklang, Shugo Tokumaru, Daníel Bjarnason and Aono Jikken Ensemble.

María has also composed film music and her compositions have been commissioned and performed in Iceland, USA and Europe.

Halla Steinunn Stefansdottir, baroque violin

Born in Reykjavík Halla holds a degree in violin and baroque violin from The Royal Danish Academy of Music and Indiana University School of Music, Bloomington. She has appeared in concerts and at festivals on both sides of the Atlantic and has commissioned and premiered various new compositions. She is the artistic director of chamber ensemble Nordic Affect since its foundation in 2005.

Halla has recorded for the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service and the European Broadcasting Service. Her playing is featured on award winning CDs from Bad Taste Records, musmap and Brilliant Classics. Other activities have included teaching at the Arts Academy of Iceland. She is the recipient of the State Artist Grant and future projects include a recording of works by Icelandic female composers.