

HOLLAND FESTIVAL 76



New Age Choral Group

New Age Choral Group

o.l.v. Burton Greene
m.m.v. Vincent Gaeta, voordracht

Programma

'Sunwatch – Moondial' (1976)
première van een coproductie van
Vincent Gaeta en Burton Greene
met New Age Choral Group

Nieuwe gedichten van Vincent Gaeta

voordracht
piano

Vincent Gaeta
Burton Greene

'Dagblad' (1976)

première van een compositie voor
New Age Choral Group
door de trompettist Charles Green

pauze

'Manifesto for angels' deel II (Greene-Gaeta, 1975)

1. voordracht van de gedichten 5 en 6
door Vincent Gaeta
 5. Love forces to motion
 6. The light has been cooled
2. gedichten 7 t/m 11 door de
New Age Choral Group
 7. Force having found us
 8. Angel and man
 9. Force into angels
 10. Kingdom of light
 11. Coda : Where light, time and
flesh all meet in such a place
as now



Burton Greene (op de rug gezien) en ensemble tijdens de opening van het Holland Festival 1975

Toelichting

'New Age Choral Group' is het resultaat van een langdurige samenwerking tussen de dichter Vincent Gaeta en de componist Burton Greene. Te beginnen met een muziek en poëzie-manifestatie in Town Hall in New York in 1964 hebben zij een jarenlange samenwerking gaande gehouden, die talrijke werken en concerten ten gevolge heeft gehad en uiteindelijk heeft geleid tot een muziekspel, gebaseerd op de mystieke tarot, dat acht voorstellingen heeft beleefd in Holland in 1973. Hierin traden op de zangers Phil en Marga Arosa, die nu de eerste zangers zijn in New Age Choral Group. In de zomer van 1974 werd Burton Greene geïnspireerd tot het componeren van een stuk voor het 25-jarige meester-jubileum van zijn yoga- en meditatie-leraar Swami Satchidananda. Het werk 'Om Chorale' vraagt de medewerking van ca. 30 zangers en instrumentalisten. Na zijn terugkeer naar Holland leidde zijn grote belangstelling voor een vocale en instrumentale synthese tot de oprichting, in december 1975, van New Age Choral Group. De groep legt zich toe op het ontwikkelen van improviserende stijlen binnen verschillende vocaal-instrumentale contexten. De muziek is eclectisch, maar ontwikkelt zich in wezen gelijk aan de vroege Europese klassieke muziek, waarin ook gebruik wordt gemaakt van harmonische toonladders en ritmen van Midden- en Oost-Europese folkloristische herkomst. Nu, evenals toen, is er plaats voor improvisaties, die in dit geval geïnspireerd zijn op het hedendaags improviserende westerse idioom, de jazz.

Het grote werk 'Manifesto for angels' is opgezet in twee delen. Het is gebaseerd op een cyclus van elf gedichten van Vincent Gaeta. Heden zal het tweede deel met de gedichten 5 t/m 11 worden uitgevoerd.

Burton Greene

Burton Greene, geboren in Chicago in 1937, werd opgeleid aan de Fine Arts Academy bij Isadore Buchalter en studeerde theorie en harmonie van de moderne jazz bij Dick Marx. In 1963 richtte hij tezamen met Alan Silva het Free Form Improvisation Ensemble op, en in 1965 een kwartet met Marion Brown, Rashied Ali, en Henri Grimes. Hij trad op tijdens vele Amerikaanse en Europese festivals gewijd aan moderne muziek en aan jazz. In 1972 werkte hij o.a. ook mee aan de productie 'Kain en Abel' tijdens het Holland Festival. Hij kreeg verschillende opdrachten en uitnodigingen voor een optreden o.a. van de ORTF, de Deense radio, de Frankfurter radio en diverse Nederlandse omroepverenigingen. Hij heeft een tiental grammofoonplaten op zijn naam staan, waaronder één met het ensemble 'New Age Choral Group'.

Sunwatch - Moondial

I am the sun
and the keeper of visions
the light of the mornings
and the bright of the day

I am the moon
and the daughter of darkness
the end and beginning
the pulse of the way

I am the burning
enthroned in the fire
and the warmth of a kiss
in the length of a day

I am the soul
moored in the changes
in the wake of the dreaming
the lovers and sage

I am the voyeur
the silent . . . the golden
the star of all yearning
the path of the soul

I am the dancer
the quiet . . . the silver
the longing and turning
of light into dark

I am the healer
the strength and the living
the center at which
all things revolve

I am the mirror
and twenty eight phases
from new moon to new moon
I wax and I wane

We are eclipsed
in our coming together
embrace for a moment
then pass away

And dark grows the noon
or the moon and our faces
till the light falls free
and we turn away

We are together
in our revolutions
the sun and the moon
the planets and stars

Aquarius shakes
beneath the horizon
casting a glance
beginning to sway

We are forever
together and turning
spinning out of the darkness
toward a still greater day

Let us go dancing
singing and laughing
we sons of the sun
we sisters of stars . . .

Manifesto for angels, deel II

5

Love forces to motion – light resulting from friction
Flesh being flint – sparks – with the remnants of angels
Force into pleasure quickened the heartbeat
And the pulse in the hand forced us to touch it
Moving each other we'd manifest angels
And make ourselves known in that body of love
Conceived by the motion that bore us and forced us to life
An act of great light – a manifesto to touch in the darkness
We came a flight of angels forced from our love
And in the flesh of nakedness forced into light each other's lost love

6

The light has been cooled by the distance it's travelled
In the time it has taken to force through the crystal
The space of five-billion years enters the prism
Retaining the light like the clouds after sundown
Like shells that remain on the sand after the tides ebbed
Such things continue to linger – kisses that follow lovers to sleep
The warmth of the body after the heart has stopped beating
Cooled by the distance it's travelled – forced from the crystal
Such changes illuminate – project on the darkness
What before was invisible – time forced through a prism
To manifest angels – now and tomorrow – the light remains visible
Cooling since yesterday hardened in all that was present
Forced into tomorrow – forced from today – a manifesto for angels to change

7

Force having founds us through the rubble that faced it
Each time the angel – Ruin – smashed the great crystal
Shattering the light that held to it – flesh to the bone
Gripped until we went through it – like the light through a prism
Forced into color – into the hot marrow core of some other
Whose light was our own – whose ruin we had shared with the phoenix
Forced from its ashes – from the crystal root of the garnet
Forced from the earth into the eyes of another
Our ruin equalled all others that faced us as mirrors
As fragile bodies of glass forced from the image – the object of light
It faced forced from its ruin to manifest angels
Smashing the crystal – shattering the light it could not break
Like a phoenix continued forced by its own light
Forward – where nothing would injure it

8

Angel and man forced from origin through mineral and plant
Until pre-conscious crystal awakened and God ran through the flesh
Like the light through a prism – like love through the lips
Opens a passage for angels – loving each other we move closer to God
Each of our children a manifesto for angels – a bridge
Between man and heaven – Where all things share in this crystal – Existence
Brothers and sisters we share in the power transporting the throne
In the light that was planned in crystal and rose
To worship itself – God made man in his image – from angels and dust
Did those first choirs praise him – so we could manifest angels today
And tomorrow as dust pressed into crystal – forced into our eyes
One God – one Man – one Angel – one Love – yours and mine

9

Force into angels – all that we witness – we imitate
Our bodies created in secret – from where did they come
And what forced us inside them forces outside them
Imitate heaven – blue eyes – black skins – force from their essence
Being man – having had the same earthly mother
As flower and tree forced from their nature – our own
Imitation of light struck when clay was the kingdom
Forced into consciousness – fathered the angel that fell like a star
Forced from love's center to the horizon
The limits of which have kept us apart like the facets of crystal
Whole yet separate forced when the fracture took place
And the light through the fissure, witnessed the forms it would imitate
A manifesto for angels forced from their image
Man – whose wings are his love

10

Angels – it would do us well to listen for such gentle voices
To heed the force's silence in the crystal
Listening morning after morning for the voice within the sun
Angels – it would do us well to look around a little
To heed the forces gathered in the crystal
Looking evening after evening for those figures moving in the dark
Angels – it would do us well to speak out of ourselves
To heed the forces language in the crystal
Speaking word after word from that tongue of perfect light
Angels – it would do us well to act for what is good
To heed the force's blessing in the crystal
Acting time after time from love and kindness
Angels – it would do us well to want for truth
To heed the force's wisdom in the crystal
Wanting day after day for the knowledge that created you
Angels – it would do us well to live and die
To heed the forces changing in the crystal
Living life after life for the death that turns darkness into light
Angels – force us as crystals onto the crown of the universe
In this Kingdom of Light – we are apart of Heaven and Earth

11

Where light – time and flesh all meet in such a place as now
This time of ours to love in – to lie beneath the stars
And force from our flesh – each other's bright love
From our breath – a manifesto for angels to touch – God
In everything where light time and flesh all meet as one
In such a world as now – force into love – each and everyone
Now is the hour – be it man or flower to manifest angels

Vincent Gaeta