



KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

08-18 AUGUST 2024

Music Notes

kilkennyarts.ie

Celebrating over 50 years of dreams and
discoveries in Ireland's Medieval City

LUNCHTIME MUSIC SERIES

Lavinia Meijer

The Glass Effect

Programme

Philip Glass

Opening

Etude no. 16

Etude no. 17

The Hours

Metamorphosis

Lavinia Meijer

Atmospheric Rivers

Tomorrowday

Duration 50 mins approx. (without interval)

Programme Notes

The Glass Effect: my personal journey

It has been an intensely creative and rewarding process making this double-album – from the selection of music, the recording process itself and the special teamwork involved, it's been a personal journey towards producing a physically tangible yet heartfelt tribute to Philip Glass.

As one of the founding fathers of the so-called Minimalist Music style (music with repetitive motives), Philip Glass has been my most important inspiration to set off exploring further into this field of music. In 2011, when I met Glass for the first time, I had never played his music before. A lot has happened since then. Not only did I record the album *Philip Glass: Metamorphosis / The Hours* in 2012, but a close friendship has also developed between us.

Three years ago I started studying the Etudes. These richly varied and melodically complex pieces, on which Glass worked for more than two decades, trace the history of his development as a composer. Transcribing them from piano to harp was a great challenge, and a much deeper and richer one than my previous arrangements of his music. The Etudes explore a variety of tempi, textures, playing techniques and harmonies that give a wonderful overview of Glass's changing musical language across a time span of over 20

years (1991–2012).

In September 2015 I visited the Days & Nights Festival in California at Philip's invitation. It was in this densely wooded region that I first heard him play his Etudes live. That was when the penny dropped. I heard and felt the very essence of this music, its immense beauty hit me. I immediately rushed back home, like one possessed, in order to work on these pieces afresh. I played my first ten arrangements of his Etudes to Philip in person. Afterwards I looked him in the eyes. Amazement and pride was what I saw there. It was exactly those two emotions that helped me keep going with my work on the Etudes whenever I got stuck. *The Glass Effect* and the Etudes symbolize for me not just the energy, the emotional expressivity and the artistic potential of the harp, but also my evolution as a musician and as a person.

Many composers have been, and still are being, influenced by Glass's music. I therefore wanted to collaborate with a variety of different composers on *The Glass Effect*, so that they could all contribute their own individual sound and feel for melody. So in 2014 I met up with the sound designer Arthur Antoine and together we wrote the track 'Lift Off', based on the music that Glass wrote in 1982 for the film *Koyaanisqatsi*. I also worked together with the young New York composer Ellis Ludwig-Leone, who

created a wonderful electronic piece for my project. The composer Bryce Dessner (best known from the band The National) has arranged three movements for *The Glass Effect*. It is something very special to see and to hear at close quarters how a younger generation of composers can reinterpret Philip Glass's great artistry in such totally individual ways.

The Glass Effect has taken me on a valuable journey, transporting me across my own musical boundaries and enabling me to grow as a musician, a performer and a person. It is my personal tribute to my friend Philip Glass, who celebrates his 80th birthday in January 2017.

Lavinia Meijer

Lavinia Meijer



Harpist Lavinia Meijer is one of the most diverse harpists of the 21st century. An exclusive Sony Classical International Artist, she has performed in some of the leading concert halls in the world, including Carnegie Hall New York, Berlin Philharmonie, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Musikverein Vienna, Palais des Beaux Arts Brussels, Bronfman Auditorium Tel Aviv and Seoul Arts Center.

Lavinia is passionate about broadening the possibilities of the harp. She experiments with electronic music, theatrical music, jazz and avant-garde work by composers like Ludwig Ellis-Leone, Garrett Byrnes, Paul Patterson, Carlos Michans and Konstantia Gourzi, and has collaborated with artists such as Iggy Pop, Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson, Sufjan Stevens and Ludovico Einaudi.

She is one of few classical artists to have had an impact on European rock album charts. In addition to being awarded two gold albums, her Channel Classics recording of *Metamorphosis / The Hours*


and her Sony Classical album *Passaggio*, have both achieved platinum sales. Her many recordings feature music as varied as Handel, Bach, Scarlatti, Takemitsu, Dessner, Muhly, Piazzola, Ravel and Debussy. Lavinia appears as a featured artist on Brittany Howard's 2020 Grammy-nominated solo album *Jamie*, and on the 2020 Sony Classical release *Peaceful Choir*, in collaboration with World Choir for Peace. Lavinia's 2022 solo album *Are You Still Somewhere?* received the Edison Classical Album Award (the Dutch equivalent of The Grammys). Her latest multi-album recording project, featuring single releases throughout 2023, is inspired by the four seasons and covers music from more than three centuries, including her own original compositions.

In April 2021, Lavinia gave the world premiere of a new harp concerto by Jaap Nico Hamburger with the Residentie Orkest in The Hague. The piece was commissioned by the Government of the Netherlands and the United Nations to mark the 75th anniversary of the International Court of Justice. Additional accolades include an invitation to perform at the PyeongChang Winter Music Festival to celebrate the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea.

Lavinia is an Ambassador for Save a Child's Heart.

Crash Ensemble

Postcards



Shee Alms House | Thur 15 August
Open house 9.30am-1pm | Performances 5.30pm & 6.30pm
Admission FREE

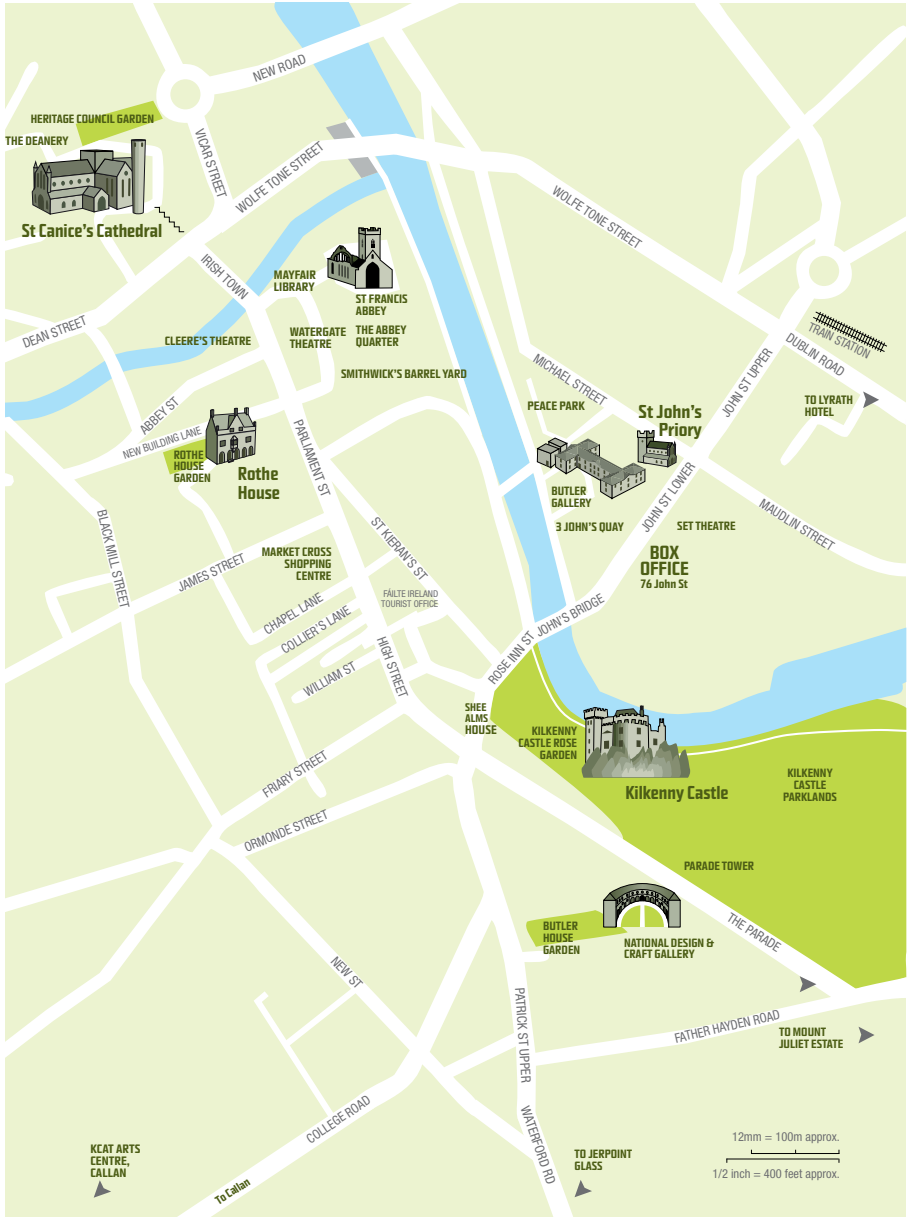


Elaine McCague

The Detached Project

Market Cross Shopping Centre | Tues 13 - Sun 18 August 1pm - 6pm
Admission FREE BUT TICKETED | See kilkennyarts.ie for more info

Kilkenny City





**KILKENNY
ARTS
FESTIVAL**

08-18 August 2024
kilkennyarts.ie

BUTLER GALLERY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

Liane Lang, *Deep Time Dip*

Curated by Anna O'Sullivan, Butler Gallery Director



BUTLER GALLERY

Butler Gallery, Evans' Home | Sat 9 August - Fri 20 September
Tues, Weds, Fri, Sat 10am-5pm | Thurs 10am-8pm; Sun 11am-5pm



Helen Comerford: *A Legacy*



Jerpoint Glass Stoneyford, Co. Kilkenny, R95 | Fri 2 - Sat 31 August
Mon-Sat 10am-5pm | Sun 12pm-5pm

FULL PROGRAMME NOW ON SALE! kilkennyarts.ie



THE IRISH TIMES

