

Paul STEENHUISEN - PROGRAM NOTES

PIECE: your soul is a bottle full of thirsting salt

Imagine the angles and perspectives present in a cubist painting, the lifetime of a pointillist dot in Seurat, a word on a canvas by Julian Schnabel or in a poem by Jacques Prevert. Take these moments, their paths and reflections, turn them sideways, and feel the flames of their resonance, memory, and recognition. Now place them in time, along a horizon, revealing the journey and longing of each. Your soul is a bottle full of thirsting salt is a sequence of magnifications of the opening gesture, a succession of deepening regards. The consecutive leaves delve from the skin of a chord to its flesh, from its blood to its cells and constituent parts, to the proteins which form and inform it, to long lines of DNA, to atomic particles, and possibly, back to the source, found within a grain.

First performed by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Bramwell Tovey. Commissioned by the Vancouver Symphony with the assistance of the Canada Council