



MUSIC FOR THE MYSTERIES

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Agnethe Christensen, mezzoalto- *Melangell* Teit Kanstrup, bass barytone - *Prince of Brochwell*
Bente Vist, soprano - Christian Berg, tenor - Kuno Kjærbye, violin - Ida Bach Jensen, double bass
Anders Hvidberg-Hansen, percussion - Hanne Tofte Jespersen, piano, alto
from 2012 also: ANNIKA HOYDAL, recital (DK/Faroe Islands)

THE TESTIMONY OF MELANGELL

is a magical tale. A journey in music into ancient Celtic myth and early Christian legend.

MUSIC FOR THE MYSTERIES' singers, musicians & storyteller perform in an artwork, and the audience sits in the artwork together with the performers. The music stages the tale of the female mystic and hermit Melangell. She settled in a remote valley in Northern Wales around 500 AD.

Later years made her saint.

Her name means "honey angel".



"VERY exciting! The music holds both medieval, renaissance, folk music and the modern - and at no point does it turn commonplace..."

Castle organist Sven-Ingvar Mikkelsen after the concert in Frederiksborg Castle Church 4.9.11

Claus Røllum-Larsen reviewed the first performance during the Schubertiade 2011 (DK):

"ORIGINAL AND VISIONARY MUSIC -

...which one was gradually captured by, and which made up a perfect universe. The performers achieved a condensed atmosphere of almost ritual magic. Not the least Agneth Christensen's beautifully rounded and strongly formulated soli made a great impression. But it was of course Hanne Tofte Jespersen's desert that the performers had such original and visionary music to perform."

Dagbladet 22.8.11

Composer: Hanne Tofte Jespersen (DK)

Visual artist: Alison Michell (UK / DK) Author: Mike Harris (UK)

from 2012 also: Sara Ekman, choreographer (S) and Eva Sommestad Holten, (S/DK) scenographic adaptations



Melangell's tale is like a Celtic "knotwork" - labyrinthine circular rather than linear. The composer has adapted its inherent dramaturgy and unfolded it into a composition in 14 movements for 5 singers (SAATB), violin, double bass, piano, percussion and recital; duration 1 hour. [LISTEN..](#)

The visual artist has created *The Magical Clearing* as a modern version of Melangell's sacred valley: A circular "room-within-the-room" squared in four like a Celtic cross. The audience sits in two sections close to the performers who perform in the other two sections. In the centre, glass drops reaches from the ceiling down above an iron dish with water and lights. Materials: stone, silk, glass, moss, water lights and 4 big paintings - [VIDEO..](#)

WEBINFO:

www.musicforthemysteries.org/melangell_info-UK.html

