

NADA KOLUNDŽIJA

BREATHING IN/BREATHING OUT

A Little Anthology of Piano Music

(1914–2014)

3 CDs & book

Vertical Jazz production Belgrade 2017

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BREATHING IN/BREATHING OUT: A Little Anthology of Piano Music (1914–2014) is a series of three compact discs (more than 3 hours of music) and an accompanying book (207 pages) initiated by acclaimed Serbian pianist Nada Kolundžija and edited by musicologist Ivana Miladinović Prica. The collection of 37 piano pieces written by 25 composers, which Nada Kolundžija recorded in Belgrade during the 2015 and 2016, covers one century of music history from 1914 to 2014. This is a kind of topography of various musical idioms which emerged and branched out starting from the early 20th-century avant-garde composers, until the present day and its more-or-less faithful “heirs” both in the West and the East. The variety of genre range from avant-garde and experimental music through minimalism and post-minimalism; from mysticism to jazz and film music; Arvo Pärt, Louis Andriessen, Philip Glass, Scott Pender, Lola Perrin, David Lang, Toby Twining, Jacob Ter Veldhuis, Galen H. Brown, Yannis Kyriakides, Vuk Kulenović, William Duckworth, Anton Batagov, Katarina Miljković, Ivana Stefanović, Milos Raičković, Miroslav Savić, Dušan Bogdanović, Miodrag Lazarov Pashu, Meredith Monk, Gurdjieff/de Hartman, Jasna Veličković, Conlon Nancarrow, John Cage and Eric Satie. This is a very special anthology which reveals the multiple identities of music for the piano, different “characters” of this instrument, its “extensions” beyond the limits of traditional instrumentation. The acoustic soundscape encounters piano, prepared piano, toy piano, music box, soundtracks, electronics and two pianos tuned a quarter-tone apart.

The accompanying book, in both Serbian and English, contains statements by composers themselves, written specifically for this anthology, as well as their official biographies and editorial notes about certain works recorded on this triple album. The composers speak very vividly about their music and their relations with the piano, thus sketching a more intimate chronicle of contemporary piano music. Aside from these diverse statements by the composers themselves, the essays about Nada Kolundžija’s pianism and her Anthology were written by Croatian musicologist Nikša Gligo, Serbian aesthetician Miško Šuvaković, and Serbian musicologists Zorica Premate, Ana Kotevska, and Ivana Miladinović Prica. Translation into English was done by Ivana Medić, graphic design by Dušica Knežević, and the sound editing and mastering by Zoran Marinković. This carefully prepared and realized edition is published by Vertical jazz (Belgrade/Serbia) in April 2017.

Nada Kolundžija has dedicated several years to the creation of this little anthology. The three-part concert cycle called *My Little Concert Anthology of Piano Music* that Nada Kolundžija performed at Belgrade Cultural Centre during the summer 2014 gave the initial impetus for publishing this collection. As an imprint of her specific pianistic approach, the Anthology *BREATHING IN/BREATHING OUT* sums up the energy of her rich experience in the field of investigation and interpretation of contemporary music. Over the last four decades, Nada Kolundžija has been captivating audiences with her performances, solo and multimedia projects. Her soloist recitals are distinguished by imaginative programmes and highly praised interpretations. Kolundžija premiered a vast number of compositions by Serbian and foreign composers. She has given over 1000 concerts in 28 European countries and all over the world (USA, Canada, Mexico, China, India, Thailand). She has won a number of awards and recognitions, among them Lifetime Achievements Award by the Association of the Music Artists of Serbia (2016).

(Ivana Miladinović Prica, Ph.D, May 2017)