

The Nordic Council Music Prize 2012 goes to Icelandic Anna Thorvaldsdóttir

The Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdóttir wins the Nordic Council Music Prize 2012 for her work Dreaming.

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Photographer: Hrafn Asgeirsson

Anna Thorvaldsdóttir (1977) has an international reputation for new musical compositions and has now been honoured with the Nordic Council's prestigious Music Prize 2012.

Dreaming for orchestra

This is what the Adjudicating Committee had to say:

"Dreaming opens the sphere of the symphony orchestra in an unusual and innovative way. The beginning and end of the work flow freely without time signature, creating a cyclic understanding of time invoking superstition and symbolism of nature that can be found in Nordic mythology. The music behaves like a shifting landscape, bringing an experience of chronological time to halt - like in dreams."

In the old Norse sagas dreams allow humans to enter into dialogue with nature. In dreams, other languages and other senses are valid. Dreams connect night and day, light and darkness, and it is in the vision of dreams that people learn about death. The music in *Dreaming* is sensual and calm, but it can also surprise and be powerful and brutal.

With Dreaming Anna Thorvaldsdóttir has written herself into a contemporary Nordic orchestra tradition which derives its timbres both from electronic music and from the sounds of nature inherent in Nordic folk music. The tones are carefully depicted - almost like small pieces of embroidery. But the work is perhaps particularly unique by the way it achieves to build and unfold a large form within a sound world that apparently stands still. This work comes closer with every listening, and it makes you curious for more".

Theme for this year's prize

The theme for the Nordic Council Music Prize 2012 is:

"The prize is awarded for a work of a living composer. No 'genre' limitations have been set, but it is an assumption that the work meets high artistic standards, and that the work can be regarded as original within its genre"

Prize awarded in Helsinki

The Nordic Council Music Prize is worth DKK 350,000. The prize will be awarded to Anna Thorvaldsdóttir during the Nordic Council Session in Helsinki at the beginning of November.

Listen and read more on the Nordic Council Music Prize's website www.musikpris.org and on Anna Thorvaldsdóttir's website: www.annathorvalds.com

Related content

Read about the Music Prize and nominations for the Nordic Council Music Prize 2012 on www.norden.org

The Nordic Council Music Prize focuses on the performance and creation of music of a high artistic standard. The prize is awarded on alternate years to a piece of music by a living composer and to a small or large ensemble or individual artist.

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