



Composer Anna Berg (b. 1992)

Key Works

Anna Berg: Returnal (2023)

Commissioned and premiered by
Pekka Kuusisto and The Norwegian Chamber Orchestra

Duration: 10 minutes

In “Returnal”, Anna Berg creates a poignant exploration of the intricate tapestry of life and death.

Inspired by the profound rituals of a Vietnamese Buddhist funeral, where diverse musical expressions guide the soul towards reincarnation, Berg weaves a sonic tapestry that delves into the ethereal realms of existence.

The piece is a part of Berg’s Funeral Music Trilogy.

Other pieces in the trilogy is:

“Earthward, Ever Circling” and “Twirling, Revolving”

“Returnal” has been featured in several programs in the Norwegian Radio Broadcasting.

*Performances in Oslo, Norway
and Naantali Festival, Finland.*



Listen

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkYVU9tw_vE

Score

https://www.nb.no/nb-noter/files/Berg/Berg_A_ReturnalForStringOrchestra_part_vannmerket.pdf



Composer Anna Berg (b. 1992)

Key Works

Anna Berg: Earthward, Ever Circling (2023)

Commissioned by
Guro Kleven Hagen, vln
Eivind Ringstad, vla and Amalie Stalheim, vlc
Duration: 12 minutes

"The living need light, the dead need music".

The quote is from a Vietnamese Buddhist funeral ritual, where different forms of music are used to prepare the soul of the newly deceased for reincarnation.

The string trio Earthward, Ever Circling (2023) is the first of in a series where I'm interested in how funeral music is used as a means of communication between living and dead, between the present and eternity.

In the piece, this is reflected in the way the phrases move through different registers; they reach down towards the earthly, and up towards the divine and eternal, and the music alternates constantly between these stages.

Like the soul's possible movements to its next life, the different elements in the music have different speed and weight, some parts swirling more hectically, while others parts are more static, waiting.

*Other pieces in the series:
"Returnal" and "Twirling, Revolving"*

Performed on tour by Ssens Trio in 2024 in Norway, Denmark and Iceland.



Amalie Stalheim, cellist



Ssens Trio

Listen

<https://soundcloud.com/annabergcomposer/earthward-ever-circling>

Score

https://www.nb.no/nb-noter/files/Berg/Berg_A_EarthwardEverCircling_part_vanmerket.pdf



Composer Anna Berg (b. 1992)

Key Works

Anna Berg: Abrasjon II (2021)

Premiered by Edvard Erdal, Guro Kleven Hagen, Eivind Ringstad and Amalie Stalheim.

Duration: 5 minutes

Nominated for The International Rostrum of Composers 2021

Winner of 2. prize in ANSA Juvenarte Art Competition

Performed by a number of string quartets in France, Norway, Iceland and Denmark, “Abrasjon II” has become one of Anna Berg’s signature pieces.

Inspired by the geological term “abrasion”, she explores how musical elements gradually are affected by one another through friction.

In the music, one can hear passages of sighs through the string instruments, abruptly disturbed by lighter pizzicatos.

Throughout the piece, as the elements scrape against one another, the soundscapes transform. Elements that were once distinct, start to become more and more similar.

Listen

<https://soundcloud.com/annabergcomposer/abrasjon-ii-2021-for-string-quartet-1>

Score

https://www.nb.no/nb-noter/files/Berg/Berg_A_AbrasjonII_part_vannmerket.pdf



Composer Anna Berg (b. 1992)

Key Works

Anna Berg: Synchondrae (2022)

Premiered by The Norwegian Wind Ensemble

Duration: 10 minutes

Nominated for The Edvard Grieg Prize
in Contemporary Music 2023

In "Synchondrae," we encounter a situation in slow transformation.

Here, the focus is on one tone at a time; almost every interval is presented exposed and insistently.

It is tempting to interpret this expression as a stylized ritualism.

"Synchondrae" was written for The Norwegian Wind Ensemble and premiered by them and conductor Kai Grinde Myrann in 2022.

[Listen](#)

<https://soundcloud.com/annabergcomposer/synchondrae>

[Score](#)

https://www.nb.no/nb-noter/files/Berg/Berg_A_Synchondrae_part_vannmerket.pdf



Composer Anna Berg (b. 1992)

Key Works

Anna Berg: The Grammar of Ornament (2024)

Commissioned by Guro Kleven Hagen, Oslo Sinfonietta and Ultima Oslo Contemporary Music Festival

Duration: 17 minutes

The piece will be premiered September 13th 2024 at Ultima, Oslo.

In The Grammar of Ornament, Berg creates a rich tapestry of sound, where threads from ancient tradition are woven into the work.

The piece for solo violin and ensemble is inspired by the đàn bầu, a stringed instrument considered to be one of the few ancient Vietnamese folk music instruments.

Berg transposes the đàn bầu's intricate ornamentation to the delicate strings of Guro Kleven Hagen's violin.



Score

https://www.nb.no/nb-noter/files/BERG/Berg_A_TheGrammarOfOrnament_part_vannmerket.pdf



Composer Anna Berg (b. 1992)

Scores and Sound

All available scores

<https://www.nb.no/noter/butikk/?composer=berg-anna>


SoundCloud


<https://soundcloud.com/annabergcomposer>


YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@annabergcomposer>

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