

Sringhara (1993)

Sringhara for Soprano, Harp and Percussion is based on a text by the poet/musician Rabindranath Tagore. In addition Van Rosendaal let himself be inspired by classical music from Indonesia, Japan and India. The poem is written in the rasa “sringhara” (or expressive of love and sympathy) and represents three worlds: the I, the You and the Sun/Moon. The I is constantly connected to a Gong cycle, the You with Japanese temple blocks and the Sun/Moon with Indian percussion patterns, which are not only performed by the percussionist, but are also vocally interpreted by the soprano.

Finally there is a connection between these three musical worlds and the We, embodied by the last part: unity has been reached. “Although I use elements from various eastern music cultures there is a common principle, namely the cyclical form,” writes Van Rosendaal. “Each cycle, consisting of four units, is visualized because the percussionist describes a complete circle. By this means the listener is capable of recognizing the transitions between the cycles.”

You fill my thoughts
Day after day;
I greet you in the solitude
Out of the world;
You have taken possession
Of my life and death.
Like the sun at sunrise
My soul gazes at you
As a single eye.
You are like the lofty sky,
I am like the boundless sea
With the full moonlight flooding
between'
You are never at peace,
I am restless forever,
Yet in the distant horizon
We ever meet.
(after Rabindranath Tagore)