

Red House Recital: Somnia

Marta Fontanals-Simmons mezzo-soprano

Lana Bode piano

Somnia is a programme that explores our varied and fragile relationship with sleep in the wake of the pandemic and challenges outside of our control and is designed to be a solace, a companion and a way back to ourselves again.

This through-running programme takes the form of an abstract journey of the subconscious in four phases. We begin in a dream-like sense that something has changed: 'Waiting'. We're then propelled into the chaos of 'Knowing', as in the moments between sleep and awake, both unsettling and soothing, we try to find sense in 'Searching'; reflecting; travelling towards deeper personal understanding and connection with our own 'Being' where we finally emerge renewed and transformed.

—Marta Fontanals-Simmons and Lana Bode

I. Waiting

20'

Night is coming. Come to see me through paths of air
An entire life of perfume was given to you with their kiss
A dewy freshness fills the silent air. How beautiful is night
Tonight the same wind turns to music and crystal

John Cage (1912–1992) Dream (1948)

Spoken: **Federico García Lorca** (1898–1936) Remanso ('Backwater') · translation: Odaline de la Martinez

Federic Mompou (1893–1987) Damunt de tu només les flors (Combat del Somni: 'Dream combat', 1942–8)
('Above you naught but flowers') · words: Josep Janés (1913–1959)

George Crumb (1929–2022) Night (Three Early Songs, 1947) · words: Robert Southey (1774–1843)

Federic Mompou Aquesta ni un mateix vent (Combat del Somni) · words: Josep Janés
('Tonight the same wind')

I just want to stand in the rain. As horses stand in the rain. I want to stand and just be
 In this subsiding out of strife, this low sea monotone
 No mirror in the world, nor the calmest water can speak of you
 I would wish to be like an oblivious river that abandons itself to the sea.

Nico Muhly (b.1981) *Quiet Music* (2005)

Spoken: Astrid Andersen (1915–1985) *Hestene står i regnet* ('Horses standing in the rain')
 translation: Annabelle Despard

Ethel Smyth (1858–1944) *Requies* (*Three Moods of the Sea*, 1913) · words: Arthur Symons (1865–1945)

Frederic Mompou *Ara no sé si et veig, encara* (*Combat del Somni*) · words: Josep Janés
 ('I know not now whether I can still see you')

Frederic Mompou *Fes-me la vida transparent* (*Combat del Somni*) · words: Josep Janés
 ('Make my life transparent')

III. Searching

Walk out with me toward the unknown region where neither ground is for the feet nor any path to follow
 That which I am searching for is also searching for me.
 No longer do I fret, 'Where will she be?' I wake up peacefully, and peacefully I sleep
 Breathing! Continual pure exchange of world-space with your own being

Natalie Klouda (b.1984) *Dream Morphing* (*Nightscares* 2020)

Ingrid Stölzel (b.1971) *Darest thou now, O Soul* (*Soul Journey*, 2014) · words: Walt Whitman (1819–1892)

Wilhelm Killmayer (1927–2017) *An meine andere Stimme* (*Härtling-Lieder*, 1993) · words: Peter Härtling (1933–2017)
 ('To my other voice')

Hans Eisler (1898–1962) *Und endlich stirbt die Sehnsucht doch* (1953) · words: Richard Engländer (1889–1966)
 ('And in the end love dies away')

Peter Liebesson (1946–2011) *Atmen, du unsichtbares Gedicht!* (*Rilke Songs*, 2001) · words: Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926)
 ('Breathing! You invisible poem!')

IV. Being

May rain falls. More quietly on the heart than love's words Or the peace of love's sleep
 The Sea lies quieted. Pale from a little space in heaven
 I heard the wind in the pines he planted 'But he is asleep' it said
 There are as yet no words to express you nor will there ever be.

Spoken: Lou Harrison (1917–2003) *May Rain* · words: Elsa Gidlow (1898–1986)

Ethel Smyth *After Sunset* (*Three Moods of the Sea*) · words: Arthur Symons

George Crumb *Wind Elegy* (*Three Early Songs*) · words: Sara Teasdale (1884–1933)

Frederic Mompou *Jo et presentia com la mar* (*Combat del Somni*) · words: Josep Janés
 ('I sensed you were like the sea')