

Poul Ruders has brought the past into the present - and vice versa...!

COMPOSER: POUL RUDERS (b.1949) · HARPSICHORD CONCERTO (2020)

Mahan Esfahani, Harpsichord · Aarhus Symphony Orchestra · Leif Segerstam (conductor)

Catalogue No: 9.70896



I. AVANTI RISOLUTO	06.54
II. ANDANTE	07.06
III. VIVACE. MARTELLATO	
ALLA BREVE	06.58
TOTAL	20.58

"As a young man I myself played the harpsichord and developed a solid "hands on" (literally) relationship with the instrument, but didn't compose anything for it till 1985, the year when Book 1 of Cembal d'Amore came about, a piece in which the past meets the present in the guise of a piano! There're now 2 Books entitled Cembal d'Amore . And that was enough harpsichord, I thought. But little did I know..." Poul Ruders

One day in 2019 as Ruders started up his computer, a commission from the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra popped up on the screen for a new piece for harpsichord and symphony orchestra, starring the phenomenal harpsichord virtuoso Mahan Esfahani. The rest, they, is history.

How does one describe a phenomenon like Poul Ruders? No sooner have you found the "mot juste" than something in the music clamors to contradict it. He can be gloriously, explosively extrovert one minute - withdrawn, haunted, intently inward looking the next. Super-abundant high spirits alternate with pained, almost expressionistic lyricism; simplicity and directness with astringent irony. All of which can be vividly heard and experienced in this new concerto.

Harpsichordist, organist, scholar and musical gadfly Mahan Esfahani stands in the vanguard of the new generation of performers liberating instruments previously regarded as the provenance of the early music specialists and bringing them into 21st century concert halls with music to match.

Recorded LIVE in the DXD format and Dolby Atmos, September 10, 2020 in the amazing acoustic in Symphonic Hall, Århus, Denmark. Producer, recording and balance engineer, editing, mix and mastering: Preben Iwan

Mahan Esfahani talks about the World Premiere of Poul Ruders' Harpsichord Concerto: <https://youtu.be/Asnr-2qd07U>

Poul Ruders talks about his Harpsichord Concerto (Danish only): <https://youtu.be/iMCeE4gysho>

A composer portrait of Poul Ruders from Wise Music: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEZQ0jbqMps>

More information about the composer: <https://www.wisemusicclassical.com/composer/1342/Poul-Ruders/>