

Pentagon Project

The Pentagon Project: An Other Way

Below the screams of cruise missiles exploding their targets, the desperate cries of parents seeking their children amongst the wreckage signal the pain of suffering and grief. These feelings are encapsulated in this fascinating musical composition. Grippled by the war in Iraq, Wouter Kwakernaat has captured reality in a composition for 5 pianos, plus violin accompaniment (al'ud), as well as percussion from the region itself (zarb and darabuka).

The Pentagon Project is an extraordinary and unique musical project – an amalgamation of various streams, such as Iraqi folklore, western classical music and a hint of pop music. Cultures also blend within the compositions: the musicians themselves comprise an international mix of Kurd, Iraqi, Turkmeni and Dutch professionals (all conservatory trained). Through the music, the show that another way is also possible, that being cooperation and making positive synergy utilizing individual differences. This is the way to collaboration and peace.

The pentagon project touches, moves and carries the listener through a musical journey through the reality of today.

Kwakernaat composed the Pentagon Project due to his idealistic goals and, through the composition, brings attention to the problems in Iraq.



On the website www.wouterkwakernaat.nl, one can find a detailed explanation of the individual pieces, and listen to short segments of the tracks. Reviews of the compositions and performances can also be found here. For example, "I was deeply touched. It's a wonderful piece of music that should be heard by every person in the world. In doing so, we would lead the way to harmony". The Pentagon Project is also available on DVD.

Goals of the project

- To stimulate a positive approach and contribution to the question regarding war and peace
- Bringing cultures from the Netherlands as well as several Arabian nationalities together
- Encouraging brotherhood and stimulating thought through the media of music
- To move people through the beauty of music and generate attention for the situation in Iraq.

Composer Wout Kwakernaat

The Breda-based composer, Wout Kwakernaat, is an idealist by nature. At the age of six, he began music lessons at the artistic music school called "de Munt" in Dordrecht. Then, he studied piano at the Rotterdam Conservatorium under, among others, Robert van der Linden and Wouter Hofstra. In his compositions, there are many influences and elements of Baroque, galantry and impressionism. Here are some of his compositions: For a small orchestra (35 pieces), for piano and saxophone, arrangements for choir and works involving piano, clarinet and soprano.



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