

Shirakawa Barrier (for Amnon Wolman)

Tape and four voices; Together with members of 'Music Nova' Ensemble: Shira Legmann (Organ), Assaf Shatil (Piano), Yoni Niv (Metal) and Dan Weinstein (Gong).

Two notes on Shirakawa Barrier (for Amnon Wolman)

1

Shirakawa Barrier is one of Japan's historic sites, built around the fifth century AD. Its initial aim was to defend ancient Japan against the invasion of the northern barbarian tribes. Over the years the barrier gradually disappeared from the landscape, until eventually turning into a symbolic passage on the way to Oku, the north country, thus becoming a poetic memory.

Many of Japan's poets come back to Shirakawa Barrier, either in person or in their imaginations. Because of this connection, it has come to be known as Utamakura - a rhetorical function and category of poetic words (often place-names) that cultivate intertextuality between individual poems and generate allusions to the canon. Moreover, Utamakura literally means "poetic pillow" or "a pillow of poetry", thus Shirakawa Barrier is a place that doesn't distinguish between history and fiction. It is a site of literary journey.

2

Shirakawa Barrier (for Amnon Wolman) was initially conceived both as a visual object and a musical composition, and as a result of its assemblage has exchangeable properties of both art forms. One can intimately re-stage the piece, at any given time, by juxtaposing translucent layers of texts into the object and listening to the composition.

The compositional part of this piece was written specifically for (and with) Musica Nova's musicians. The tape contains sonic fragments I recorded with the four of them, separately, on previous unrelated occasions.

Performance Instructions

The tape includes four channels/instruments, each one corresponding to one of the four voices. A voice recites its associated text one time only*, as long as being heard on tape**. The recitation, thus, goes s l o w l y. Tape volume: slightly below voices level, whether amplified or not.

* Excluding Voice/Text #3, which repeats itself throughout the length of its associated channel/instrument recording as indicated below.

** Voice/Text #1 doesn't start at 00:00, but at 00:50 and is continuous throughout the length of its associated channel/instrument recording as indicated below. Voice/Text #4 ends at 08:19.

Time of channel/instrument recording on tape:

00:00 - 06:04 > Voice/Text #1

02:26 - 08:22 > Voice/Text #2

03:40 - 06:19 > Voice/Text #3

04:30 - 09:04 > Voice/Text #4

Download link for the Tape

<http://idogovrin.net/ShirakawaBarrier%28forAmnonWolman%2924bit96Khz.aif>

Texts

Matsuo Basho (The Narrow Road to Oku). Japanese - Hebrew translation: Jacob Raz