

1) TRILOGY OF THE HEREAFTER

I Aunt Hänsi – Tales of the Hereafter (2006)

II Qira'at - Recitations (working title!, planned for 2010/11)

III Ta'amim/Cantillations (planned for 2011/12)

AFTERLIFE TRILOGIES I-III deal with the area of conflict between contemporary and folk music by comparing ancient and modern death rituals of different cultures. With Pro Helvetia as one of its main sponsors, Part I of the Trilogy, "*Aunt Hänsi – Tales of the Hereafter*" debuted in Basel in October of 2006 (also performed in Berlin/Maerzmusik and Mexico City/Festival del Centro Historico de Mexico City) to popular success and critical acclaim. Parts II and III of the Trilogy "*Qira'at - Recitations*" and "*Ta'amim - Cantillations*" will focus on the dead rituals in Aegypt and Israel. The central subject matter and form of all three parts have congruent concepts:

The musical basis is the eight-musician "ensemble dialogue", (founded for "*Aunt Hänsi*"), Stories of death rituals are told by a narrator in her native tongue, further illustrated by a culturally specific "folk" ensemble of musician. In the case of "*Aunt Hänsi*" this folk ensemble is a Male Yodelers Chorus, and for "*Qira'at/Recitations*" it will be based on one female Arabic voice and Oud.

2) "Qira'at / Recitations" – Death Rituals (Focus on Egypt) with Kamilya Jubran Voice and Oud

(Projected completion 2010)

Part II of the Afterlife Trilogy will broach the subject of Death and Ritual with Egypt as main focus. Similar to "*Aunt Hänsi*", a narrator speaking Arabic will use stories and vignettes to describe death rituals. There will be a repeated interchange of Mela Meierhans' music with Kamilya Jubran's music - sometimes overlapping, sometimes not – The two Composers will work together using the same material (text and "melodie").

"*Qira'at / Recitations*" should be staged sparingly using a concept which combines light and space together, within an documentary film by the filmmakers **Ahmed Abdel Mohsen und Sandra Gysi** The beauty of poetry, which has been strongly influenced by Arabic music and language, as well as the recital thereof, should become an integral part of the composition.

Here we have a meeting of two very disparate cultures: they should be transformed into music in the most sensitive way possible. Like in "*Aunt Hänsi*" an encounter between contemporary western music and a new style of a modern Arabic song will be depicted using narration as the link.

Performances are planned in Berlin (March 2010 Maerzmusik) Basel (october 2010),

Concept/Composition: Mela Meierhans
Musicians: ensemble dialogue and Kamilya Jubran
Regie: Raphael Urweider
Documentary Film: Ahmed Abdel Mohsen, Sandra Gysi
Stage and light: Martin Müller
Dramaturgy: N.N. / Sandra Gysi
Texts: div.
Translation: Ahmed Abdel Mohsen und Sandra Gysi
Support Cairo: Hebba Sherif
Libretto/Recordings: ;Mela Meierhans. Kamiliya Jubran and others

3) „Ta'amim / Cantillations“ – Death Rituals Focus on Israel
(Working title, Planned for 2011/12)

Mela Meierhans, february 09
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