

### **SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY**

Elodie Lauten is a composer, performer and media artist. She started as a singer/songwriter and became a pioneer of electronic music since the early 70s. While at NYU, her Master's thesis, an opera for the Fairlight Computer Musical Instrument, *The Death of Don Juan*, received an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. She has composed a lot of electronic music, in addition to other projects of electro-acoustic, electronic, vocal, chamber and orchestral music, richly textured with driving rhythms, surprising chord changes and occasional dramatic dissonance, but always ear-friendly and with a unique signature.

As a leading exponent of post-minimalism, she was listed among the most influential composers of the last three decades (Sequenza 21). Her piano, electronic, orchestral compositions and five operas have had 30 releases on 15 different major and independent labels in the US and Europe. Her music was presented by the Lincoln Center Festival, the New York City Opera, The Whitney Museum, throughout America with performances and university residencies, and in Canada and Europe, notably at the Paris Museum of Modern Art. In 2009 her *Two-Cents Opera* had a three-week run at Theater for the New City, and in 2010 an extensive reissue of her piano music was released by Unseen Worlds.

About her multimedia work shown as part of the Women Forward exhibition in 2009, James Baldwin Cohen said: "Her highly sophisticated use of today's advanced technology has opened a new dimension in the art world."

She received a Bachelor's in Economics from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris and a Master's in Composition from New York University and has been on faculty at NYU and CUNY. Additional information is available from: <http://www.elodielauten.net>.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Composer Elodie Lauten's musical oeuvre includes electronic and electro-acoustic pieces, as well as chamber and orchestral music. The landmarks are her unique neo-operas - some of which she directed - evolving or deconstructing the classic form: *The Two-Cents Opera* (2008), *The Death of Don Juan* (1985/2010), *Existence* (1991), *The Deus Ex Machina Cycle* (1997), *Orfeo* (2004) and *Waking in New York, portrait of Allen Ginsberg* (1999), which was showcased at the New York City Opera and appeared on a list of the most influential works of the last three decades. In July 2008, the CD reissue of *The Death of Don Juan* by Unseen Worlds has stimulated much curiosity and interest: "Truly captivating from the outset, highly recommended...a long-overlooked masterpiece of new music...Lauten was mining new areas of musical expression that wouldn't be fully discovered for decades to come." Other Music; "...a milestone." Pitchfork; "Fascinating." Wire Magazine (UK).

Lauten's music has been presented by the Lincoln Center Festival, the New York City Opera, WNYC, The Kitchen, the Performing Garage, the Dance Theater Workshop, La Mama, the Soho Baroque Opera, Downtown Music Productions, AFMM, Interpretations, the SEM Ensemble, The Whitney Museum, and the Paris Museum of Modern Art. Over the years she received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Council on the Arts, ASCAP, Meet the Composer, the American Music Center, and The Music Liberty Initiative. The Bozeman Symphony Society commissioned her for a symphony to celebrate the new millennium.

The current discography includes 30 titles to-date, released on Lovely Music, O.O. Discs, Point/Polygram, New Tone (Italy), 4-Tay, Tellus, Nonsequitur, Capstone, Frog Peak, Pitch, L.E.S.P.A., Unseen Worlds, Wire. Innervisions, !K7, MusicWorks, Cat Collectors, Studio 21 and other labels.

Recently, Lauten's music was featured in the Seattle Chamber Players' Classics of Downtown program along with major names in the industry. In 2010 she performed a series of program of her tangos in New York nursing homes for the elderly and AIDS patients and was involved in a benefit for Haiti earthquake victims. She performed at the Howl festival in New York in 2008, 2009, and 2010. Her *Two Cents Opera* had a three-week run at the Theater for the New City in March 2009. She performed her 9/11 work S.O.S.W.T.C. at the New Museum on the anniversary date of 9/11/09.

Not a stranger to visual art, she has had solo and group exhibitions since the 1980s. Recently her multimedia art and digital images were featured in the Women Forward show at the Williamsburg Art and Historical Center (along with work by Yoko Ono and Judy Chicago).

Lauten was educated in Paris at the Lycée Claude Monet, the Conservatoire and the Institut d'Études Politiques as well as New York University where she received a Master's in Music Composition and later taught on the composition faculty. She is a writer/publisher member of ASCAP. She is a board member of Lower East Side Performing Arts and the Art Loisaida Foundation. She contributes blogs to the award-winning classical music internet magazine Sequenza21. She is on the faculty at New York City College of Technology. Her work is documented in many books and magazine articles (see bibliography), on Wikipedia and through an extensive web site at <http://www.elodielaute.net>.

## ALTERNATE BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

The music of Elodie Lauten is tonal and modal, richly textured with driving rhythms, surprising chord changes and occasional dramatic dissonance, but always ear-friendly. She has been called a pioneer of post-minimalism. Her music has been presented in New York by the Lincoln Center Festival, WNYC, The Whitney Museum, The Kitchen, the Performing Garage, La Mama, the SEM Ensemble; also by the Chicago Arts Festival, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, the Music Gallery in Toronto, and the Paris Museum of Modern Art. Her pieces span categories and styles, with fully scored as well as improvised music, piano music, musical theater, orchestral, chamber and electronic music but her landmarks are unique "neo-operas" evolving or deconstructing the form: *The Death of Don Juan*, *The Deus Ex Machina Cycle* and *Orfeo* both scored for Baroque ensemble, and *Waking in New York*, setting the poetry of Allen Ginsberg. Her 30 releases appear on a variety of labels: Lovely Music, Point/Polygram, O.O.Discs, New Tone (Italy), Frog Peak, Studio 21, Pitch, Capstone, Studio 21, 4-Tay, MusicWorks, the Wire, Innervisions, etc. An extensive reissue of her piano music was released by Unseen Worlds in 2010.

Her *Variations on the Orange Cycle* for solo piano was included on Chamber Music America's list of 100 best works of the 20th century (1999). *Waking in New York* (presented by the New York City Opera Vox in 2004) was included on Sequenza21's list of the most influential musical compositions of the last three decades (2005). In 2008 the reissue *The Death of Don Juan* by Unseen Worlds was greeted by comments such as "a masterpiece of new music". In March 2009 the Theater for the New City presented her new work, *The Two-Cents Opera*, which was called "quintessentially operatic" by Hyperion in a 10-page in-depth analysis of the work.

She has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Council on the Arts, the Music Liberty Initiative, ASCAP, Meet the Composer, The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and the American Music Center, as well as chamber and orchestral commissions.

As a visual artist, she has frequently exhibited in Soho, Chelsea and the East Village in New York. A retrospective of her drawings, collages and digital art, along with works by Yoko Ono and Judy Chicago, was recently included in the *Women Forward* group exhibition praised by Mayor Bloomberg (April-May 2009) at the Williamsburg Art & Historical Center in Brooklyn.

Born and raised in Paris, she has lived in downtown New York since the mid-70s. She holds a Master's in Music Composition from New York University where she studied with Dinu Ghezzo and where she has also taught composition. She is currently on the faculty at the New York City College of Technology. Additional information is available from: <http://www.elodielauten.net>.