

Mikheil Shugliashvili

Grand Chromatic Fantasy (Symphony) For Three Pianos

Georgian composer Mikheil Shugliashvili, who died in 1996, is an intriguing outsider in the Edition Wandelweiser catalogue, a minimalist in essence, yet drawn to the imposing fullness and scope that is conveyed by the title of his hour long Grand Chromatic Fantasy (Symphony). Listeners familiar with the large scale cellular keyboard works of Dutch composer Simeon Ten Holt, Shugliashvili's older contemporary, may find parallels in this music's emphatic repetitiveness and its plural piano instrumentation. Bach, a main inspiration for both men, is quoted in dramatic style in the course of this work. But the cascading scales and tonal blocks that pile up in Shugliashvili's Fantasy, driven by deep intuition, loom like the Caucasus when compared to Ten Holt's expansive flatlands. A ruggedly irregular and imposing formation.

Julian Cowley

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