

Rolling Angel's 2000 vs 2022

By composer for "The Angel Of Smiles", Tonje T.S. Norheim / Mirrorship

These mobile concrete Angel's on wheels (see photo with their skeleton made out of industrial bins) by sculptor Marit Benthe Norheim, have during the last 22 years been to many places around the world. I especially appreciate the touring they did around the 2000's, where Composer Geir Johnson wrote an amazing piece of choir work in extension to the unique electroacoustic soundscapes installed within each sculpture.

The footage in a film about Rolling Angels in UK, can be found on YouTube and shows some of the extraordinary work they did together in various places, amongst others in London; Trafalgar Square and the Church of St. Martins in-the-Fields.

Geir Johnson tragically and unexpectedly passed away last year, and I had to take on the composition for the new addition to the 18 Rolling Angels, (music installed inside the sculpture), commissioned for the Town Hall's Angel Museum in Linksmakanis, Lithuania, as part of the European Capital of Culture 2022.

As an homage to Stasé Samuleviciené (1906-1988), who was given the Polish Order of Smiles award (previously given to a. o. the Pope, Mother Theresa, Astrid Lindgren), for her creations, her caring ways and her ability to bring smiles into people's lives, Angel number 19 was given the name "Angel Of Smiles".

Amongst trying to capture the beauty and melancholy of Linksmakalnis under its smile, (the tragic history of the shadowed past; - of it being a Russian secret military base up until 1993, after starting as a German military mansion) I incorporated micro samples of Geir Johnson's previous choir work (torn apart more and more, until less is recognized or even heard towards the end). I also took pleasure in mimicking his electronically produced Angel-scapes (previously mimicking insect sounds) using a classic 303, emphasizing the multitudes of the uses of a smile and sure curiosity in her expression.

Angel Of Smiles will stay permanently in Linksmakalnis - Kaunas, where she will be moved to a new spot every month, to help her continue to spread her existential smile to the people there.