

BR-Klassik

Detlef Krenge

English Translation

What strikes one initially about this beautiful album, "Tara Hugo sings Philip Glass", is its strong pop appeal. This has its reasons: In addition to the compositions by Philip Glass, the singer at the center is Tara Hugo who is not a classical singer - she's an actress.

Originally from Texas, she trained in London at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and then began a very successful career as a stage actress. But her true passion is singing. She has taken on many roles as an actress singer, and was hailed for example, for Jenny Diver in *The Threepenny Opera* by critics and audiences alike, and even with a prize nomination, the Laurence Olivier Award. The twelve songs on this CD do not form a connection or cycle, but are taken from existing works such as operas or film music. There are also some isolated composed songs and melodies, including four texts written by Tara Hugo. The pieces all have a similar structure and instrumentation. A small orchestra ensemble brings intimate colors to play and chamber music with strings, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, harp and piano, played by Trevor Gureckis, the arranger himself. The mood is continuous, rather withdrawn and melancholy, the subjects revolve around brooding shrouded existence and love questions. And of course, the repetitive sound cells are clearly present everywhere, for which Glass is so famous. Philip Glass is one of the few contemporary composers who is not afraid to write tonal music, and just the repetitive pattern alone can make for rock and pop music. It is a very big plus that Tara Hugo is an actress and focuses on the sense and emotional content of the words which is to believe everything she sings, in a clear and understandable English. Her voice is a beautiful contrast to the musical textures of glass which establish a mood. Lastly, the fascination and beauty of this CD is ultimately its consistency. Everything is of a piece, a shower of music, singer, instruments and sound.

Original here:

<http://www.br.de/radio/br-klassik/themen/cd-tipps/cd-tipp-glass-tara-hugo100.html>