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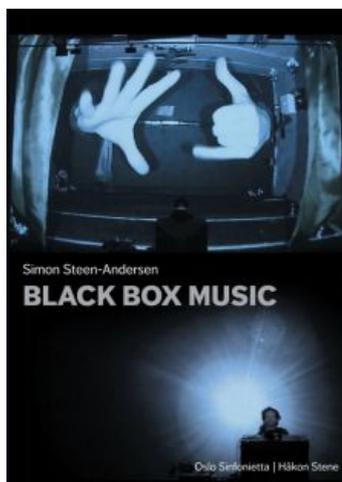
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STEEN-ANDERSEN Black Box Music

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Author: Richard Whitehouse

Simon Steen-Andersen (b1976) is nothing if not referential in his concern to concretise his musical concerns, as the two works on this DVD make plain. Thus *Black Box Music* might be described as a 'concerto for puppet theatre', in which the box of the title is made a scenic backdrop for the soloist's hands to fill the available space with gestures that do not direct the music so much as provide a visual parallel. The outcome, with musicians providing an aural accompaniment alive with incidental detail yet relatively static in terms of overall evolution, is arresting if lacking in those provocations that make certain of Maurizio Kagel's theatrical pieces absorbing on repetition. Not dissimilar is *Run Time Error*, a site-specific work where the composer is also performer - his instruments being the contents of the venue (the Black Diamond in Copenhagen) used according to a pre-arranged route; the results 'interpreted' by joysticks controlling twin audio channels and a double video projection. It all makes for diverting viewing/listening but is relatively lightweight compared to the visceral emotional charge from the 'suite for global junk' which is Gabriel



STEEN-ANDERSEN Black Box Music

STEEN-ANDERSEN Black Box Music

Black Box Music

Run Time Error @ The Black Diamond #1+2

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Prokofiev's *Import/Export* (3/11).

These performances are conveyed with unstinting clarity as regards both the playing of the Oslo Sinfonietta (with percussionist Håkon Stene) and the precision of the visual imagery. The booklet has detailed introductions to both works, while the DVD features 'raw versions' of the latter piece showing just how Steen-Andersen created the result from separate sources – and demonstrating how the whole can sometimes end up being less than the sum of its parts.

(http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B00P3521GS/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1634&creative=6738&creativeASIN=B00P3521GS&linkCode=as2&tag=gramophone07-21&linkId=MP4N4PJW4ISOKP4B)

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The great tenor Nicolai Gedda has died at the age of 91: gramophone.co.uk/classical-musi...



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