



Philip Glass

Piano Works

A selection performed on the pipe organ

Pier Paolo Strona

pipe organ

Philip Glass - Piano Works - P. Paolo Strona. pipe organ

PHILIP GLASS (1937) PIANO WORKS

A selection performed on the pipe organ

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| 1. Studio n.1 in G minor | 7' 11" |
| 2. Opening | 6' 28" |
| 3. Metamorphosis One | 6' 44" |
| 4. Metamorphosis Two | 6' 37" |
| 5. Metamorphosis Three | 4' 41" |
| 6. Metamorphosis Four | 5' 59" |
| 7. Metamorphosis Five | 5' 44" |
| 8. Studio n.9 in F minor | 3' 17" |
| 9. Mad Rush | 15' 46" |
| 10. Wichita Vortex Sutra | 7' 46" |
| 11. Modern Love Waltz | 4' 15" |

Total Time 75' 03"



Philip Glass - Piano Works - P. Paolo Strona. pipe organ

Philip Glass

Piano Works

a selection performed on the pipe organ

Pier Paolo Strona pipe organ

website <http://pierpaolo-strona.arty.it>

Fotografia in copertina di Pier Paolo Strona

Copyright 2021 - Pier Paolo Strona All Right reserved

PPS011

PPS011

PPS011

Philip Glass (1937) Piano Works, a selection performed on the pipe organ

Philip Glass, as he himself tells in his autobiography "Words without music", had a long period of education in prestigious Institutes, the University of Chicago, where he studied mathematics and philosophy, the Juillard School of Music in New York and Nadia Boulanger school in Paris where he studied the languages of western music, tonal and contemporary. Aware of not being able to live with the activity of composer, to remain free to follow his ideas without any compromise, he has always kept himself with other jobs, worker at the steel mills in Baltimore, taxi driver and plumber in New York.

He began his musical education since childhood listening to LPs in his father's record shop in Baltimore and studying violin and flute. So he assimilated much of the musical culture of the past and contemporary not only Western, but also jazz, and Eastern, especially Indian music, through contacts and collaborations with Ravi Shankar, travels and stays in India, Buddhism.

So, in his first 40 years, he developed and built an original, very personal musical language in which rhythmic, melodic and harmonic structures from the cultures he knew and studied were found and merged.

His vast production covers almost all genres, music for films, theater and reading of texts, operas, ballets, vocal and instrumental music, and it evolved by starting from minimalist experiences of the 60s and 70s, continuing today and going far beyond the minimalism of which he is anyhow a founding father.

The CD presents some of the most important works that Philip Glass has dedicated to the piano performed on the pipe organ.

- **Opening** (1982) the first piece (for piano only) of a series of six of the album "Glassworks" for solo piano and orchestra.
- **Metamorphosis** (1988) five compositions written for a theatrical adaptation of "The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka.
- **Wichita Vortex Sutra** (1988) composed for the pacifist poem of the same name written by Allen Ginsberg in 1966 and translated into Italian by Fernanda Pivano.
- **Mad Rush** (1979) played on the organ by Philip Glass himself in honor of the Dalai Lama visiting New York in 1981.
- **Modern Love Waltz** (1977) a short brilliant composition
- **Two Studies** (1991-1995), n.1 - n.9

Art is the freedom to create and to experiment. Playing the same scores on different instruments allow us to discover new beauties, sometimes unexpected and surprising ones, but all present in those pages. The interpreter's task is to reveal them and offer them to the listeners. With this spirit these recordings were made between April and July 2021 (the quarantine imposed by the covid-19 virus favored their realization) in the Baptist church in via Passalacqua in Turin, a church built by the Baptist community and inaugurated in 1904. The organ is an instrument dated 1959 and made by the prestigious Swiss organ builder Metzler (the only organ in Turin made by this firm). The instrument, with mechanical transmission, is equipped with 13 stops arranged on two keyboards (the second with an expressive case) and pedal board. The Baptist Church bought it in 2018, transporting it from

Germany, where it was previously located. The organ building firm Tamburini of Crema installed and fine-tuned it.

The photograph by Pier Paolo Strona on the cover represents a stretch of pavement in a square after a brief shower. The thin veil of water left is sufficient to reflect parts of the buildings around, lines that blend with those of the pavement. The resulting structure, abstract and harmonious in shapes and colors, takes the viewer away from the photographed reality, into another dreamlike and surreal world, as does Philip Glass's music, which distances the listener from his reality. and leads him to new states of consciousness.

Pier Paolo Strona is a civil engineer, researcher in the field of the numerical models of structures, photographer and musician, author of books and publications. He is active as a pianist and organist in Italy and abroad with a repertoire that ranges from the most important classical composers to ragtime, to Latin American as well as Asian music.

Thanks to the Baptist Community of via Passalacqua in Turin, in the person of Pastor Alessandro Spanu, who made the church and the Metzler organ available, thus making it possible to record this CD, and to Maestro Massimo Caracò, titular organist at the "Chiesa della Misericordia" in Turin, which contributed with discussions, exchanges of opinions, suggestions and advice to the achievement of a clearer awareness in interpretative choices.