Thea Musgrave (1928 -)

Website: http://www.theamusgrave.com

Night Windows (2007)

1. Loneliness
2. Anger
3. Nostalgia
4. Despair
5. Frenzy

Besetzung: Oboe, Klavier
Verlag: Novello & Co, London

Kunstwerk(e)

Edward Hopper: Night Windows

The Seasons (1988)

1. Autumn
2. Winter
3. Spring
4. Summer

Besetzung: Orchester
Verlag: Novello & Co, London
Bemerkung: Thea Musgrave (1988): The idea for the work crystallised after a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Piero di Cosimo’s Caccia Primitiva, a frightening image of fire and destruction built around a wild and gory hunt scene, gave rise to the idea that various pictures related to the four seasons could become a metaphor for the cycles in the life of man. In this way the first movement, Autumn, violent and destructive, stands for an impending storm, be it literal or metaphorical. One of the main musical motives includes hunting horns set against a restless background. They are eventually swallowed up by a violent tempest. In mourning, bells ring out the Dies Irae. Here the mood is depicted by Picasso’s The End of the Road. n Winter, all is a frozen wasteland of ice and despair, but one single voice, a solo oboe, keeps a small flame of hope alive. A painting by Leutze, Washington Crossing the Frozen Delaware, prompts a distant, brief quote of The Star Spangled Banner. In Spring the rains come, the snow melts and a 'dawn chorus' of birds heralds the moment of re-birth. The movement builds to a romantic climax, culminating in two massive chords (a quotation of the 'freedom chords' from the composer’s opera Harriet, the Woman called Moses). This dissolves to a serene cadence, where the voice of the cuckoo can be heard, Van Gogh’s The Sower comes to mind. Summer is fulfilment and celebration. Inspired by Van Gogh’s Le 14 juillet à Paris, Jasper Johns’s Flag and Monet’s Rue St Denis, Festivities of June 30, 1878, the scene of season, place and rejoicing is reinforced in the music by the layering of the national anthems of the USA and France. https://www.wisemusicclassical.com/work/8426/The-Seasons--Thea-Musgrave/.

Kunstwerk(e)

Piero di Cosimo: Caccia primitiva
Vincent van Gogh: Der Sämann
Jasper Johns: Flag
Vincent van Gogh: La Fête du 14 Juillet a Paris
Claude Monet: Rue Saint-Denis, fête du 30 juin 1878
Pablo Picasso: The end of the road (Au bout de la route)

Emmanuel Gottlieb Leutze: Washington Crossing the Delaware

Turbulent landscapes (2003)

1. Sunrise with sea monsters
2. The shipwreck
3. Snow storm: Hannibal and his army crossing the Alps
4. War. The exile and the rock limpet
5. 16th October, 1834: The burning of the Houses of Parliament, 1834
6. Sunrise, with a boat between headlands

Besetzung: Orchester
Verlag: Novello
Bemerkung: Auftragskomposition des Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Kunstwerk(e)

Joseph Mallord William Turner: 16th October, 1834. The Burning of the Houses of Parliament, 1834, Tate Gallery, London
Joseph Mallord William Turner: Snow Storm: Hannibal and his army crossing the Alps
Joseph Mallord William Turner: Sunrise with Sea Monsters
Joseph Mallord William Turner: Sunrise, with a boat between headlands
Joseph Mallord William Turner: The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons, 1834: Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio
Joseph Mallord William Turner: The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons, 1834: The Philadelphia Museum
Joseph Mallord William Turner: The Shipwreck
Joseph Mallord William Turner: War. The exile and the rock limpet

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