

THELEMA TRIO IN USA AND PERU 2005



A report from our first tour in the United States, and our second visit to Peru in the middle of South America.

With an overdose of enthusiasm and a healthy dose of nerves, we boarded the aeroplane that would take us from Brussels to Atlanta on 9 October, to take another craft from there to Greensboro, North-Carolina. On an invitation of the Society Of Composers, Inc. Thelema Trio would perform two concerts here as a part of their National Congress 2005.

On 12 October we played a concert of our own repertory that was received with a lot of warmth and applause. Included were the pieces "Summer" by Belgian composer Dirk Brossé, as well as the world premiere of the dark and beautiful "Winterzon" by Hans-Hendrik Nordström. The critics spoke of a deep, emotional and highly professional concert. On Saturday 15 October we played our second concert with exclusively music by members of the Society Of Composers, Inc. Including pieces by Burton Beerman, Karen P. Thomas and Fernando Benadon. The composers, who were all present at this performance, were utterly satisfied with what they named an interpretation of high quality.



THELEMA TRIO AND COMPOSERS BURTON BEERMAN, KAREN P. THOMAS, HYEKYUNG LEE AND KEVIN WALZYCK AT THE MAIN HALL, SCI.

After a day of well deserved rest the tour continued in the Southern Birmingham, Alabama. On 18 October Thelema Trio played a concert there for the organisation BAMA, a group of composers in this old industrial city. Despite the smaller

number of people who visited the event, it was a bulls eye. Both our own repertory, with compositions of Philémon Mukarno, Korneel Bernolet and Nicolas Gilbert, as also the 3 premieres of BAMA composers William Price, Monroe Golden and Jenna Lyle were very much appreciated by the present audience. The next day our ensemble was expected in a local high school and a middle school for concerts in the Outreach Programme of BAMA. Thelema played both times a mini concert with explanation on the works and the instruments. We could count on a lot of enthusiasm and co-operation of the Afro-American pupils. Truly a wonderful experience!



THELEMA TRIO AND COMPOSER WILLIAM PRICE, ON A BRIGHT DAY IN BIRMINGHAM.

The continuation of our tour started with a wild and comical taxi ride at 4am. We had to be at the airport very early for our flight to Portland, Oregon. At the Western Oregon University in Monmouth the trio was expected for a concert and a masterclass. Once more the programme was made with our own pieces and a new composition by local composer Kevin Walzyck. He had dedicated a new piece to Thelema Trio after we had performed his "Incantation" in several countries through the past years. The concert was very successful as well as the masterclass the next morning, which was an interesting new perspective for us. First we worked with the students of composition during one hour, going deeper on the contemporary writing and playing techniques, and after that we got two hours for a masterclass with mini concert on the topic of "contemporary composition through the eyes of the performer."



THELEMA TRIO AND COMPOSER KEVIN WALZYCK, DURING A DAY WALK AT THE WATER FALLS IN OREGON.

After our work in Monmouth was done, we got a nice break in the city of Portland itself, and we got to do some sight-seeing as well. We visited the Oregon Falls and we had the luck of beholding a whale at the shores of the so called "Beaver State". We definitely needed these couple of days to rest a bit, because we were still moving on to Lima, Peru!



Once arrived in Lima, the preparations started for the two concerts we were about to perform in this South-American city, although we had enough eating and drinking parties with the relatives of clarinetist Marco. The first performance was at the South-American Congress for Chemistry, that was closed in a festive way by Thelema Trio with Peruvian and South-American music.

Straight afterwards the rehearsals started with composers Alvàro Zuñiga and Rafael Leonardo Junchaya for the world premiere of their compositions for Thelema Trio. This concert took place at the Second International Festival of Contemporary Music in Lima on 4th November 2005. After this Marco and Peter collaborated as guest musicians with the orchestra of the conservatory of Lima in a special concert, dedicated to new Peruvian music, at the same festival. When this concert passed, our ways began to take separate directions. Peter had to return to Belgium for a concert with the 4x4 Blindman Saxophone Quartet, while Marco and Ward stayed in Lima for a final concert in this tour under the name of Duo Dicto.



THELEMA TRIO WITH COMPOSER ALVARO ZUÑIGA AT THE NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF LIMA.

Looking back to this musical journey through the United States and Peru now, two months later, our fingers and nerves have started itching again in expectation of the following concert tour. We're very happy with a successful playing in both countries and with a peaceful heart we step towards the year 2006, knowing that this has not been our last time. We keep you informed...

Thelema trio wishes to thanks all the organisers, composers and friends who made of this tour a wonderful experience for each of us.

Thelema Trio. 2005 - 2006. www.thelematrio.com

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