

NEFERTARI

PAUL SÁNCHEZ

NEFERTARI: *A Sonic Manifestation of QV66*

"If her House of Eternity is a bridge between the physical and the spiritual, then perhaps music is in fact a natural atmosphere for such an entity; is music not exactly such a liminal space, and does it not have the power to bridge worlds?" — PAUL SÁNCHEZ

THE FOUNDATION

A 62-minute work for soprano, prepared piano, and sistrum, *NEFERTARI* functions as a ritualistic journey through the Tomb of Nefertari (QV66). Winner of the 2nd Prize in the American Prize in Composition, the 250-page score represents a landmark synthesis of contemporary creative research and ancient Egyptian theology.

SCHOLARLY RIGOR AND AUTHENTICITY

The work utilizes primary Hieroglyphic texts with original transliterations and IPA vocalizations by Egyptologist Dr. Edmund Meltzer and Gonzalo M. Sánchez, M.D. The score features a handmade sistrum by Kleo Xirou, mirroring the instruments held by the Queen in the Abu Simbel and Luxor reliefs.

STRUCTURAL ALLEGORY

The three movements mirror the tomb's spatial and symbolic architecture:

- ☥ I. ETERNITY (*Dt*): The linear descent and the "reckoning" at the Gates
- ☥ II. GOING FORTH BY DAY: The Entrance Chamber (*Book of the Dead*, Ch. 17), providing a space of relative repose.
- ☥ III. INFINITY (*Nh*): The final transformation, embodying the chthonic and solar cycles as the traveler ascends to the stars.

INTERDISCIPLINARY SYNTHESIS

The work's motivic cells are derived from the central painting of Re as a ram-headed figure, asserting the identity of Re and Osiris. This "Sonic DNA" explores the profound connectedness of humanity across eons.

CRITICAL RECEPTION

"A bold and visionary work, epic in scope, that takes the listener on a vast inner journey. This is a liminal piece that is on the threshold to another world.... The effect of the music is both contemporary and ancient... [it] follows its own predestined pathway into eternity."

— GRAHAM LYNCH, composer

"[Paul Sánchez] created an entire world with *NEFERTARI*.... The experience of listening to it is... vertigo-inducing - I feel like I fell into it, into a space. It reminds me of the eerie sense of deep time I sometimes get.... The overall effect of *NEFERTARI* is quite overwhelming in the best way."

— MICHAEL IPPOLITO, composer

"I've been a fan of Paul Sánchez's music for years, but *NEFERTARI* stands as his masterpiece. The nuance, care, structure, storytelling, and sheer beauty of the writing are extraordinary. It's a deeply moving and remarkably crafted piece of art!"

— SHAWN E. OKPEBHOLO, composer

