

BERND FRANKE

**PETREL SEASCAPES – five songs for soprano and orchestra (2001-02)**

based on poems by David Bengree-Jones

wp: 16.4.2002, New York, Juilliard School

New Juilliard Ensemble/Joel Sachs

duration: 14 Minuten

publisher: C.F. Peters Frankfurt-London-New York

\* BIRTH

\* AFTER BIRTH

\* LOVE AND REGENERATION

\* DEATH

\* SPRING TIDE

instrumentation: fl.ob.cl.bsn.-hr.trp.trb.tb.-hrp-pno.-perc.(3)- stringquartet, db.

*PETREL SEASCAPES* was composed at the instigation of the leader of the New Juilliard Ensemble, Joel Sachs.

The poems were commissioned specially from the English writer and poet **David Bengree-Jones** who was born in Liverpool in 1952. Based in England, during the last decade he has divided his time between London and Leipzig, writing in both English and German in a variety of genres. His works for music have been performed and broadcast, with commissions including pieces for the Internationale Leipziger Chopin-Tage.

*PETREL SEASCAPES* are five short songs for orchestra developing their own specific acoustic character: expressive, hard, brutal, sensual, tender, still, fragile – the breadth of expression is demanding for both the soloist and the orchestra with its differing contrasts and gestures.

The texts mirror in a clear and sensitive way, different feelings and emotions with a metaphor and meaning in a language that I as composer found very stimulating.

Following the world premiere of my composition **CUT** for ensemble performed in October 2001 by the Ensemble Modern, *PETREL SEASCAPES* is my next premiere of a large orchestral composition.

Bernd Franke 10.2.2002