

PRESS RELEASE :: Diatribe Records DIALP028
Xenia Pestova Bennett – Atomic Legacies :: PRESS RELEASE



International Record Release – March 1st 2020

Internationally-acclaimed pianist **Xenia Pestova Bennett** releases a landmark new record entitled **Atomic Legacies**, on **Diatribe Records**, available as limited-edition vinyl and digital. The release features two of Xenia Pestova Bennett's major collections: **Glowing Radioactive Elements** and the award-winning **Atomic Legacies**, commissioned by **PRSF Women Make Music** and featuring the **Ligeti Quartet**.

The recording features the **Magnetic Resonator Piano**, designed by Andrew McPherson. Electromagnets are installed above the strings of a regular concert grand without physical contact with the action, allowing for control of minute details of shimmering resonance, fragile pitch bends, sliding crescendi from silence and sustained "bowed" sounds that the performer can shape directly from the keyboard. In her own words "for a pianist used to the inviolable earth-bound principles of attack and decay, the extended instrument allows the performer to grow wings and discover flight."

To mark the release of the album, Xenia Pestova Bennett and the Ligeti Quartet will perform the complete work at **New Music Dublin 2020**, as a part of a seven-record launch series by Diatribe Records, supported by the Arts Council of Ireland / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

Xenia Pestova Bennett has earned a reputation as a leading interpreter of uncompromising repertoire. She has commissioned dozens of new works and collaborated with major innovators in contemporary music. Past projects include premiering Arlene Sierra's "Urban Birds" at the Southbank Centre, burning a piano with Annea Lockwood in Wales, instigating the World Toy Piano Summit in Luxembourg, designing cutting-edge musical instruments at McGill University and masterminding a new digital version of the analogue electronic processing required for Stockhausen's epic "Mantra". Xenia teaches performance at the University of Nottingham.

The **Ligeti Quartet** have been at the forefront of modern and contemporary music since their formation in 2010. They have established a reputation as one of the UK's leading ensembles, breaking new ground through innovative programming and championing of today's most exciting composers and artists. The quartet have performed at landmark venues around the world including Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, Barbican Hall and Kings Place, and are currently working on a long-term project with Ernst von Siemens prize-winning composer Christian Mason to create a series of 'Songbooks' for string quartet, based on overtone singing traditions from around the world.

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"Xenia Pestova is a powerhouse of contemporary keyboard repertoire, and [Non-Piano] displayed her wide-ranging expertise as well as showcasing new composition."

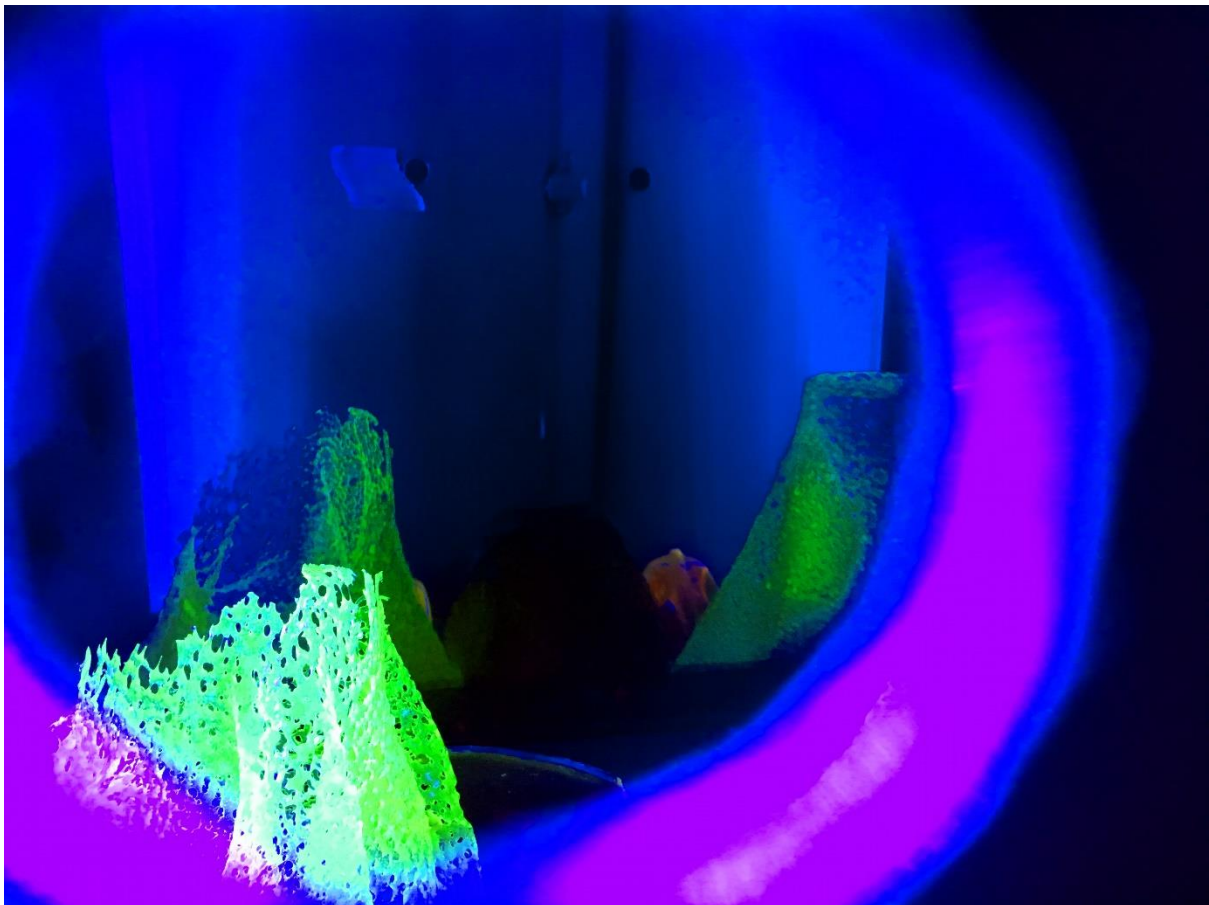
Tempo Magazine

"Xenia Pestova is a concert pianist with a difference, an uncompromising artist resolutely committed to bringing the music of living composers to life and who enthusiastically embraces the potential new technologies offer to her particular realm of activity."

TEXTURA

"A brilliantly free-thinking and fearless pianist."

Verity Sharp, BBC Radio 3



Helmut Schweizer 'Atoms in the Family' · Particle Boom
Photograph © Mike Christian

For more information visit: www.diatribe.ie

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