

Dark Music Days 2016 Recap: Day Three

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Violin soloist Hlíf Sigurjónsdóttir's concert contained some of the most adventurous and abstract music of Dark Music Days. Opening with Rúna Ingimundar's *Away from home*, she tapped into the authentic cultural landscape; these pieces are like theme and improvisations based on Icelandic folk songs from the so-called kvæðalög. Sigurjónsdóttir played these very personal pieces from memory. Hróðmar Ingi Sigurbjörnsson's *Kyrie* was more animated with interesting intervallic hinges. Karólína Eiríksdóttir's *Meditation for Solo Violin* was a slow and expressive journey that showcased Sigurjónsdóttir's mastery of the extreme upper register. American composer Merrill Clark's piece *The Sorceress*, a multi-movement work written for Sigurjónsdóttir, brought the program into furious overdrive. During *The Sorceress*, in which Clark's whimsical and intricate take on Baroque dance-structures produced hazardous virtuosic expression, a huge 20x20 foot backdrop displayed Greek artist Ektoras Binikos' psychedelic visual landscapes of fractal universes and Fibonacci spirals, sending the neocortex into swirling kaleidoscopic metamorphoses. This engaging and challenging work was a fantastic glimpse into some far away future.

GAVIN GAMBOA March 3, 2016 at 6:00 am

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