

The Poet Speaks: from Debussy to Pärt

by *The Cross-Eyed Pianist* | March 21, 2018

Annie Yim, piano, with recorded voices

The Performance Space, City, University of London

Friday 16 March 2018

My second visit to the Performance Space at City, University of London, and a second performance of John Cage's infamous 4'33". Last summer I heard a "straight" performance – the pianist silent yet fully present at the piano while the audience absorbed the myriad sound of the space; this time the piece was complimented by poetry – 'A Kind of Silence' by Ed Baker, and a reminder that Cage's work was conceived with the idea that any sound constitutes "music".

This was part of an intriguing and highly original concert by pianist Annie Yim (<https://meettheartist.site/2018/03/12/annie-yim-pianist/>) in which music and words combined to reveal "*tributes, friendships, and artistic affinities*" (AY, programme notes). Annie is the creator of MusicArt London, a conceptual concert series which combines music with poetry and visual arts, creating interesting and unexpected dialogues and connections between the works in the programmes and across creative disciplines. Programmes include works by 21st century composers, juxtaposed with historical masterpieces. In this concert, Annie played music by Debussy, Ravel, John Cage, Arvo Pärt, Cheryl Frances-Hoad and Philip Glass, interspersed with readings from poems which sparked a musical impulse or which were written in response to music.

Extracted from concert review by Frances Wilson originally published on

<https://crosse-eyedpianist.com/2018/03/21/the-poet-speaks-from-debussy-to-part/> (21 March 2018).