

Scene & Aria: Layover in CDG

Lisa Bielawa

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Note

Premiere: August 15, 2014 at The Stone, NYC
Duration: 6'
Instrumentation: Soprano, Cello, Piano

I wrote *Scene & Aria: Layover in CDG* at the end of a very busy season, when I was traveling incessantly. It was, in fact, composed entirely in hotel rooms and on airplanes, and - most memorably - during a layover in Charles DeGaulle airport in Paris. This airport is, I must admit, my least favorite in the world. Frequently, one must get on a kind of elevator shuttle bus to get from the plane to the gate, and vice versa. Plus it is usually necessary to reclaim luggage and take a shuttle to a different terminal for connecting flights. While boasting some of the most inconvenient, non-ergonomic connections, CDG also seems to boast some of the shortest layover times. I have probably missed around 50% of my connecting flights through CDG. I decided to let swiftly changing, bustling musical moods provide a kind of imagined soundtrack to my layover. There are narrative elements in the score - "passport control;" "finding my gate number;" "stopping for a cafe au lait;" etc. The "Scene" part of the piece is bustling and busy, while the wistful "Aria" is animated by "memories of my trip."

– Lisa Bielawa

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