



ROSTRUM 2012

RADIO LATVIA 3 KLASIKA

**SANTA RATNIECE (1977)**

*Shant nadi / A Peaceful River.* A chamber symphony (2011)

Recorded during the premiere at the Guildhall of Riga, November 11, 2011

**19:45**

Chamber orchestra *Sinfonietta Rīga*, conductor **Normunds Šnē**  
<http://www.sinfoniettariga.lv>

“A dry riverbed which is once again filled with water after powerful rain or flooding. It is a dry riverbed. It is white and so very ancient.

Different levels of water are reflected by the vibrato sound of various string instruments. The sound sinks into light and shallow, deeper, and very deep and black water. The various instruments are heard in various layers which sometimes flow together to emphasise the main line – the surface of flowing water. There is an effort to use sound to touch the warm upper layer of the water, with instruments presenting warm sounds and tones. Different streams flow in parallel, but they encounter one another at the crest of the waves. Unexpected depths are presented by the eerie shadows and indeterminably deep whirlpools of wind instruments. There is silence before the sound splashes into the old riverbed. When the riverbed overflows, all of the instruments try to overflow one another. Strange and uncommon water which ends the accustomed dryness of the river flows into the new riverbed.

The area of sound represents vast areas of water and the desert. Water and the desert are linked in this opus via an unusual relationship. The two large groups of instruments have a similar relationship. The groups fundamentally change their meaning and sound thanks to such changes in nature. When a stream loses speed in the desert, sediment is accumulated very quickly. Eventually this sediment can become a complete contrast in becoming a border or even a mountain range which stretches across the desert. This is affected by the strength and direction of the wind, and by other circumstances. In deserts, the wind can change the surface of the earth. Percussion instruments here have the role of the sculptor, creating new borders of mountains from the sand.

Complex but indivisible relations link all of the instruments in this composition. The eternal force of water and the shifting flows of desert sands experience rebirth. They come a new and opposite phenomenon, with the water drying out and the sand turning into strong mountains.”

**Santa Ratniece** (22.03.1977) has graduated from Latvian Academy of Music in 2000, specialized in musicology, and again in 2002, specialized in composition. In 2007 she received her Master degree from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. For more information about Santa Ratniece please visit the website: <http://www.lmic.lv>