

**For immediate release**

## **RESULTS of the 2009 International Rostrum of Composers**

Paris, June 15, 2009. **First Harmonium Concerto** (2008) for harmonium and orchestra by Dutch composer **Martijn PADDING** (born 1956) and **Aquarelle** (2007) for mixed choir by young Lithuanian composer **Justė JANULYTE** (born 1982) are the works selected by radio music producers participating in the 56<sup>th</sup> International Rostrum of Composers (IRC) held at the Maison de Radio France, June 8 to 12, 2009. This year's IRC edition was organised as usual by the International Music Council and hosted by the Bureau of musical creation at Radio France.

Having pursued its mission to promote contemporary music creation through broadcasting for more than half a century, the annual Rostrum has over the past few years reinforced its role as one of the most important "rendez-vous" for professional exchange between radio producers. Its overall objective remains fostering the exchange of performances of contemporary music between broadcasting organisations. For example works chosen at the preceding Rostrum (2008) were given over 400 broadcasts by participating networks as well as affiliates of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

The 2009 Rostrum gathered representatives from 29 national radio networks from four continents, which presented 56 works composed within the five years preceding the Rostrum. YLE Executive Producer Heikki Valsta (Finland) chaired the sessions. After the listening sessions, the assembly of delegates selected and recommended the most distinctive works in two categories: general and "young composers under 30". These and other works will be presented in concerts and broadcast after the Rostrum by the participating and other interested radio stations.

In the general category, **First Harmonium Concerto** (2008) by Dutch composer **Martijn PADDING** (born 1956) was selected by the delegates as most outstanding. Netherlands Public Broadcasting had presented the work in a recording of its world premiere by the *orkest de ereprijs*, conducted by Wim Boerman and with soloist Dirk Luijmes.

Martijn Padding writes about the work: "The 'Protestant home trainer' evokes all kinds of associations with religious life; psalms, hymns and musical sluggishness. Although I consider these to be the most worthy of Dutch musical culture, the First Harmonium Concerto royally transcends these. The limited volume of the harmonium is something that a composer needs to take into account and is probably a significant explanation as to why no concerto was ever composed for this instrument previously. ... I associate the wavering character of the harmonium's tuning with something heavenly, but also with cauliflower. The First Harmonium Concerto steers a route between these two extremes, and doesn't concern itself further with the supposed sluggish and devout character of the instrument."

In the "young composers" category, the work selected as most worthy for worldwide broadcasting was **Aquarelle** (2007) for mixed choir by young Lithuanian composer **Justė JANULYTE** (born 1982); the work had been presented by Lithuanian Radio in a recording of the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, conducted by Paul Hillier.

*Aquarelle* is composed in the style of pure repetitive minimalism. The texture is based on the counterpoint of regular pulsations, and the harmony on slow sequences of diatonic scales, imitating overlaps of watercolour hues without distinct beginning/end outlines. The piece does not contain verbal text, only mormorando and vowels, hence there are no sound attacks (associated with consonants in vocal music). The only gesture in this piece is the sound emerging from and submerging into silence, as the tip of iceberg revealing only small part of what the hearing cannot grasp, but may be able to imagine.

In addition to the selected works, eleven other works (see list further) were recommended for broadcasting and concert presentation after the Rostrum by the participating and other interested radio stations.

The results of this year's Rostrum were announced at a press conference held at Radio France on June 12. The producers of the selected works were presented with the UNESCO Picasso-Miro medal; it will also be awarded to the composer of the general selected work. The young composer selected will receive a co-commission from Radio France and the International Music Council.

The Rostrum delegates were offered diverse opportunities for knowledge building and sharing with a presentation on intellectual property rights and related burning issues on the European agenda, a forum on the place of contemporary music in today's radio environment and discussions about the role of the Rostrum. The itinerary of the week included various concerts and an interview with composer Bruno Mantovani,

The delegates expressed their deep concern about the challenges that contemporary creation faces today in broadcasting organizations, with regard to the production of concerts and recordings as well as in the broadcasting field.

The next edition of the International Rostrum of Composers will take place in Lisbon, in Spring 2010, hosted by the Portuguese Radio and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

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The International Music Council is the world's leading professional organisation dedicated to the development and the promotion of diverse music and musical rights. It aims at contributing to the development and strengthening of friendly working relations between all the musical cultures of the world on the basis of their absolute equality, mutual respect and appreciation. Founded in 1949 upon request of the Director General of UNESCO as the advisory body to the agency on musical matters, it functions as an independent international NGO maintaining a formal associate relationship with UNESCO.

The mission of IMC is to provide exceptional value to its membership by building knowledge and creating networking opportunities, by supporting and enhancing the visibility of initiatives that help sustain people's participation in music and cultural life.

## CATEGORIE GENERALE / GENERAL CATEGORY

### OEUVRE SELECTIONNEE / SELECTED WORK

**Martijn PADDING** (Pays-Bas/Netherlands)

**FIRST HARMONIUM CONCERTO**

### OEUVRES RECOMMANDEES / RECOMMENDED WORKS

**Magdalena DŁUGOSZ** (Pologne/Poland)

**Gemisatos**

**Tobias BROSTRÖM** (Suède/Sweden)

**Lucernaris**

**Thomas LARCHER** (Autriche/Austria)

**Konzert für Violine und Orchester**

**Philippe LEROUX** (France)

**De la disposition**

**Marko NIKODIJEVIC** (Serbie/Serbia)

**Music box/ selbstportrait mit Ligeti und Strawinsky (und Messiaen ist auch dabei)**

**Eva REITER** (Autriche/Austria)

**Alle Verbindungen gelten nur jetzt**

**Bent SØRENSEN** (Danemark/Denmark)

**Phantasmagoria**

**Sebastian STIER** (Allemagne/Germany)

**Strahlensatz**

**Mirjam TALLY** (Estonie/Estonia)

**Turbulence**

**Ewa TRĘBACZ** (Pologne/Poland)

**things lost, things invisible**

## CATEGORIE DES COMPOSITEURS DE MOINS DE 30 ANS

### COMPOSERS UNDER 30 CATEGORY

### OEUVRE SELECTIONNEE / SELECTED WORK

**Justė JANULYTE** (Lituanie/Lithuania)

**AQUARELLE**

### OEUVRES RECOMMANDEES / RECOMMENDED WORKS

**Jonathan NANGLE** (Irlande/Ireland)

**our headlights blew softly into the black, illuminating very little**

**Marko NIKODIJEVIC** (Serbie/Serbia)

**Music box/ selbstportrait mit Ligeti und Strawinsky (und Messiaen ist auch dabei)**

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