

For immediate release

RESULTS of the 2010 International Rostrum of Composers

Lisbon, June 4, 2010 – *Ouvertures (Part 1)* (2008) for Guzheng, sampler and orchestra by Danish composer **Simon STEEN-ANDERSEN** (born 1976) and *Twilight Chants* (2009) for mixed choir, double bass and glasses by young Latvian composer **Kristaps PETERSONS** (born 1982) are the works selected by radio music producers participating in the 57th International Rostrum of Composers (IRC) held at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, from May 31 to June 4, 2010. A flagship programme of the International Music Council, this year's IRC edition was for the first time co-organised by Portuguese Radio (RTP, Antena 2).

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 significantly strengthened 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 (2009) were given some 500 broadcasts by participating networks as well as affiliates of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

The 2010 Rostrum gathered representatives from 33 national radio networks from four continents, which presented 67 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, *Ouvertures (Part 1)* (2008) for Guzheng, sampler and orchestra by Danish composer **Simon STEEN-ANDERSEN** (born 1976) was selected by the delegates as most outstanding. Danish Radio had presented the work in a recording of the Göteborg Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Pierre-André Valade. Simon Steen-Andersen is a rising Danish composer on the international music scene. 'Ouvertures' was composed on a suggestion from the Danish Composers' Society, which had received an invitation from Radio France to send works to be premiered at the *Présences* festival in Shanghai. The request was specifically for solo concertos with traditional Chinese instruments. Simon Steen-Andersen went to China and fell in love with the guzheng - a sitar like instrument with bridges that divide the strings in two; in fact, one can pluck the strings on both sides of the bridges. His fine composition sheds light on both the ancient Chinese instrument and Western concertos.

In the “young composers” category, the work selected as most worthy for worldwide broadcasting was *Twilight Chants* (2009) for mixed choir, double bass and glasses by young Latvian composer **Kristaps PETERSONS** (born 1982); the work had been presented by Latvian Radio in a recording of the Latvian Radio Choir, conducted by Sigvards Kļava, and with soloists Kristaps Pētersons and Jānis Kokins. *Twilight Chants* is Kristaps Pētersons’ first piece dedicated to a choir. The composer writes about his work: “The songs are a fictitious ritual of a fictitious religion. This religion glorifies the twilight hour believing it is the moment when divinity manifests itself in the most tangible way.” In its premiere performance in Amsterdam, the chorus artists not only sang but also piped evoking resonance from a set of bottles partially filled with water. While the bottle part is sung in the recording presented at the Rostrum, glasses of water tuned to a musical scale are still an integral part of the performance.

In addition to the selected works, fourteen 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 the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation on June 4. 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 Rostrum delegates were offered diverse opportunities for knowledge building and sharing with a forum on the role of Internet in today’s radio environment and audience development as well as discussions about the role of the Rostrum. The itinerary of the week included concerts and an interview with composer Miguel Azguime.

The event culminated in a special Rostrum concert in the evening of June 4 at the Centro de Arte Moderna of the Gulbenkian Foundation. The concert saw the world premiere of works by the young composers selected at the four previous IRC editions: Eriks Esenvalds (Latvia, 2006 IRC), Ülo Krigul (Estonia, 2007 IRC), Florent Motsch (France, 2008 IRC), Justė Janulyte (Lithuania, 2009 IRC). The works presented at the concert were commissioned jointly by Radio France and the International Music Council. They were performed by the Portuguese ensemble OrchestrUtopica, conducted by Cesario Costa. The concert was broadcast live by RTP Antena 2 and will be offered for broadcast to EBU members.

The next edition of the International Rostrum of Composers will take place in Vienna, June 6 to 10, 2011 hosted by the Austrian Radio (ORF).

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.

GENERAL CATEGORY / CATEGORIE GENERALE

SELECTED WORK / OEUVRE SELECTIONNEE

Simon STEEN-ANDERSEN (Denmark/Danemark)

OUVERTURES (PART 1)

RECOMMENDED WORKS / OEUVRES RECOMMANDEES

Luciano Andrés BORILLO (Argentina/Argentine)	Ecos de la Muerte (REQUIEM)
Gualtiero DAZZI (Italy/Italie)	Le jeu de la feuille et du vent
Donnacha DENNEHY (Ireland/Irlande)	Crane
Erik GRISWOLD (Australia/Australie)	Old MacDonald's Yellow Submarine
Hugi GUDMUNDSSON (Iceland/Islande)	Händelusive
Ülo KRIGUL (Estonia/Estonie)	Earth...to become earth again
Florian Magnus MAIER (Netherlands/Pays-Bas)	Operator
Krystof MARATKA (France)	Zverohra
Onutė NARBUTAITĖ (Lithuania/Lituanie)	Bank River Symphony
Olga NEUWIRTH (Austria/Autriche)	Remnants of Songs...an Amphigory
Toivo TULEV (Estonia/Estonie)	I said Who are You? - He said, You
Lidia ZIELIŃSKA (Poland/Pologne)	Conrad's Seven Islands

CATEGORIE DES COMPOSITEURS DE MOINS DE 30 ANS COMPOSERS UNDER 30 CATEGORY

SELECTED WORK / OEUVRE SELECTIONNEE

Kristaps PĒTERSONS (Latvia/Lettonie) **TWILIGHT CHANTS**

RECOMMENDED WORKS / OEUVRES RECOMMANDEES

Maté BELLA (Hungary/Hongrie)	Chuang Tzu's Dream
Lucas FAGIN (Argentina/Argentine)	Arquetipo

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