

For immediate release

RESULTS of the 2014 International Rostrum of Composers

Helsinki, May 9, 2014 – ***Words and Song Without Words*** (2012) for cello and electronics, by Cyprus-born composer **Yannis KYRIAKIDES** (born 1969) and ***Canzon de' baci*** (2012), for tenor and orchestra by young Polish composer **Andrzej KWIECINSKI** (born 1984) are the works selected by radio music producers participating in the 61st International Rostrum of Composers (IRC) held in Helsinki, from May 6 to 9, 2014. A flagship programme of the International Music Council, this year's IRC edition was for the first time in the history of the IRC co-organised by YLE Broadcasting Company.

Pursuing its mission to promote contemporary music creation through broadcasting for more than sixty years, the annual Rostrum has this year again 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 (2013) were given well over 500 broadcasts by participating networks as well as affiliates of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

The 2014 Rostrum gathered representatives from 27 national radio networks from four continents, which presented 50 works composed within the five years preceding the Rostrum. 12 of these works were by composers under the age of 30. The Rostrum was chaired by YLE Executive Producer Heikki Valsta (Finland) who finished this year his second mandate as IRC chair. 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, ***Words and Song Without Words*** (2012) for cello by Cyprus-born composer **Yannis KYRIAKIDES** (born 1969) was selected by the delegates as most outstanding. The work was presented by NLNPO/MAX (Netherlands) with Larissa Groenveld as cellist. This work is a response to a quote from a letter written by Felix Mendelssohn to Marc-André Souchay in 1842, in which he explained his position regarding his *Songs Without Words* cycle, highlighting the opposite view he takes from the norm, regarding the relative meaningfulness of words in relation to music. According to the composer, the piece is about the act of speaking and the way in which the words resonate in the body. The cello acts as a surrogate inner voice, but no outsider will be able to make out exactly what that voice says.

In the “young composers” category, the work selected as most worthy for worldwide broadcasting was **Canzon de' baci** (2012), for tenor and orchestra by young Polish composer **Andrzej KWIECINSKI** (born 1984). The work had been presented by Polish Radio Programme 2 in a recording of tenor Karol Kozłowski and the Aukso Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Marek Mos. “*Canzon de' baci* is the turning point in my creative endeavours. ... The piece is based on a *ciaccona*, one of the most popular forms in Baroque music. I used the fragment of the bass from the duet *Dolicissimi baci* but I decided to ‘hide’ the melody in the middle range of the piano. Distortion is one of the most important aspects of my work; this is why the *ciaccona* melody is played on the piano using harmonics in the highest positions. ... *Canzon* means lied or song, and I think of my composition as of a song-*ciaccona* in rondo form... My intention was to give the whole piece a playful character.” (A. Kwiecinski)

In addition to the selected works, 11 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 Yleisradio Headquarters on May 9. The producers of the selected works were presented with the Joan Miró UNESCO Homage medal by Antoni Tápies; it will also be awarded to the composer of the general selected work. The young composer selected will be granted the “Guy Huot bursary for young composers” in the form of a joint commission with Radio France.

The partners at Finnish Broadcasting Company, hosts of the Rostrum, had prepared a rich and diverse programme for the delegates. Thus, an evening at Music Finland allowed for sharing experiences and learning from representatives of the Finnish new music scene. Moreover, Finnish composer Sebastian Fagerlund met with delegates for a special interview. The itinerary of the week included concerts by Finnish ensembles and the Finnish RSO as well as an excursion to Ainola (Järvenpää), the home of Jean Sibelius. As always, the delegates benefited from a dedicated opportunity for professional exchange during the annual ‘open mic’ session where challenges and opportunities for new music in the radio environment were in the centre of the discussions.

The assembly of delegates elected Evert van Berkel (Swedish Radio) as new Chairman of the IRC for the next three years.

The next Rostrum edition will take place in Tallinn (Estonia), May 12-15 2015, hosted by Estonian Public Broadcasting.

The International Music Council (IMC) is the world’s leading membership-based professional organisation dedicated to the promotion of the value of music in the lives of all peoples. IMC’s mission is to be the voice of music, to develop sustainable music sectors worldwide, to create awareness about the value of music, to make music matter in all social fabric, and to uphold basic music rights in all countries.

IMC’s network is present in 150 countries on all continents, with national music councils and international, regional and national music organisations as well as specialised organisations in the field of arts and culture. IMC members of honour are chosen among the world’s outstanding professionals, educators, performers and composers. Through its members, IMC has direct access to over 1000 organisations and 200 million persons eager to develop and share knowledge and experience on diverse aspects of musical life.

GENERAL CATEGORY / CATEGORIE GENERALE

SELECTED WORK / OEUVRE SELECTIONNEE

Yannis KYRIAKIDES

(Cyprus/Netherlands - Chypre/Pays-Bas)

Words and Song Without Words

Presented by NLNPO/MAX (Netherlands)

RECOMMENDED WORKS / OEUVRES RECOMMANDEES

Antti AUVINEN (Finland/Finlande)

Orior

Brenton BROADSTOCK (Australia/Australie)

Never Truly Lost

Christian Winther CHRISTENSEN

(Denmark/Danemark)

Chromatische Weltmusik (ohne fremde Elemente)

Federico GARDELLA (Italy/Italie)

Mano d'erba

Andrzej KWIECINSKI (Poland/Pologne)

Canzon de' baci

Benoît MOREAU (Switzerland/Suisse)

Encre et trompette

Felipe PEREZ SANTIAGO (Mexico/Mexique)

Red Antisocial

Joey ROUKENS (Netherlands/Pays Bas)

Scenes from an old Memory Box

Benjamin STAERN (Sweden/Suede)

Sånger av bländvit kärlek (Songs of Dazzingly White Love)

Dobrinka TABAKOVA (Bulgaria/Bulgarie)

Fantasie Homage to Schubert

CATEGORIE DES COMPOSITEURS DE MOINS DE 30 ANS

COMPOSERS UNDER 30 CATEGORY

SELECTED WORK / OEUVRE SELECTIONNEE

Andrzej KWIECINSKI (Poland/Pologne)

Canzon de' baci

RECOMMENDED WORKS / OEUVRES RECOMMANDEES

Krists AUZNIEKS (Latvia/Lettonie)

I Exist As I Am

Máté BELLA (Hungary/Hongrie)

Trance

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