

For immediate release

RESULTS of the 2013 International Rostrum of Composers

Prague, May 31, 2013 – **Not I** (2010) for soprano (or mezzo-soprano), chamber ensemble and electronics by Polish composer **Agata ZUBEL** (born 1978) and **So very strange** (2013), by young Icelandic composer **Úlfur HANSSON** (born 1988) are the works selected by radio music producers participating in the 60th International Rostrum of Composers (IRC) held in Prague, from May 28 to 31, 2013. 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 Czech Radio.

Pursuing its mission to promote contemporary music creation through broadcasting for 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 (2012) were given some 500 broadcasts by participating networks as well as affiliates of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU).

The 2013 Rostrum gathered representatives from 30 national radio networks from four continents, which presented 51 works composed within the five years preceding the Rostrum. 12 of these works were by composers under the age of 30. 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, **Not I** (2010) for soprano (or mezzo-soprano), chamber ensemble and electronics by Polish composer **Agata ZUBEL** (born 1978) was selected by the delegates as most outstanding. The work was presented by Polish Radio. Agata Zubel is a multi-prizewinning and prolific composer and vocalist and is one of the most interesting figures on Poland's contemporary music scene. The late music critic and broadcaster Andrzej Chłopecki wrote about Agata Zubel some years ago: ‘She's got the charisma, she takes the audience by the throat and does not let it go until its last breath, and her own breath (notated in the score) as well. The work is a setting of Samuel Beckett's dramatic monologue *Not I* (1972), a logorrhoea of fragmented sentences in which an elderly woman tells the story of her life.

In the “young composers” category, the work selected as most worthy for worldwide broadcasting was ***So Very Strange*** (2013), for electronics by young Icelandic composer **Úlfur HANSSON** (born 1988). The work had been presented by Icelandic National Broadcasting Service in a recording of the composer. Hansson commenced his studies in 2008 in composition – new media at the Icelandic Academy of the Arts and has since released two solo CDs. He has also created soundscapes for various installations and composed music for short films. Hansson obtained his BA in compositions in the spring of 2012 and one of his bachelor projects there was the creation of a new instrument that he called OHM, a 26-string electromagnetic harp, with a touch interface but which can also play automatically via computer. *So very strange* is based on field recordings which were made during a concert tour with Jónsi, an Icelandic pop singer. The foundations of the work were created in bus trips and back rooms of various concert venues across the USA. Upon his returned to Iceland, the composer began experimenting on the prototype of the OHM.

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 Czech Radio on May 31. The producers of the selected works were presented with a UNESCO medal; 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.

During their visit to Czech Republic, the Rostrum delegates were offered diverse opportunities for knowledge-building and sharing on the occasion of a meeting with the Czech composer Petr Bakla, artistic director of the Contempuls Festival, an interview with Czech composer Kryštof Mařatka and an ‘open mic’ session on the Rostrum and the diverse ways that Rostrum works are presented to the audience. The itinerary for the week included a presentation by former IRC chair David Jaeger (Canada) about his 31 years at the Rostrum as CBC delegate.

The Rostrum had started on May 28th with a tribute by the assembly of delegates to French composer Henri Dutilleux, who had passed away a few days before and who had been the first composer selected at the IRC in 1955, and to the long-time delegate of Polish Radio to the IRC, Andrzej Chłopecki.

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

Agata ZUBEL (Poland/Pologne) **NOT I**

RECOMMENDED WORKS / OEUVRES RECOMMANDEES

Hans ABRAHAMSEN (Danmark/Danemark)	Double Concerto
Aureliano CATTANEO (Italy/Italie)	Selfportrait with Orchestra
Bernd Richard DEUTSCH (Austria/Autriche)	2. Streichquartet
Chung-Kun HUNG (Taiwan R.O.C.)	Vox Naturae
Klaus LANG (Austria/Austrie)	Siebzehn stufen
Ørjan MATRE (Norway/ Norvège)	...but I must have said this before...
Mauro MONTALBETTI (Italy/Italie)	Blumenlicht, prelude for orchestra
Sergej NEWSKI (Germany/Allemagne)	Alles (Everything)
Matthew WHITTALL (Finland/Finlande)	Dulcissima, clara, sonans

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

SELECTED WORK / OEUVRE SELECTIONNEE

Úlfur HANSSON (Iceland/Islande) **SO VERY STRANGE**

RECOMMENDED WORKS / OEUVRES RECOMMANDEES

Marianna LIIK (Estonia/Estonie)	Mets (Forest)
Justina REPEČKAITĖ (Lithuania/Lithuanie)	Chartres

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