



**ECCO
FEATURING
THE**

**RTV
SLOVENIA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA**

LJUBLJANA, 29 SEPTEMBER 2016
— MARJAN KOZINA HALL OF THE SLOVENIAN PHILHARMONIC —

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ABOUT ECCO

THE EUROPEAN CONTEMPORARY COMPOSERS ORCHESTRA

ECCO is an **ECSA project** dedicated to performing and promoting contemporary art music and to reaching new audiences. It operates as a network of active ensembles, orchestras and young professionals, supporting the creative dialogue between composers and performers and offering young professionals the opportunity to develop their skills with ensembles experienced in performing contemporary music on an international level. The **ECCO concert**, and other cultural projects organised by **ECSA**, are aimed at increasing the visibility of **ECSA** and all the issues connected to the status of contemporary music creators. Pieces are received via a call to all **ECSA member societies** and are carefully selected to reflect the cultural and aesthetical diversity of European art music in the 21st century.

In 2015, **ECCO** presented two very successful concerts given by Sturm und Klang and the BBC Singers. At tonight's concert, the **RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Jessica Cottis** will perform six pieces by European composers selected by the **ECCO Artistic Committee**.

The composers are: **Benjamin de Murashkin** (DK), **Indra Riše** (LT), **Knut Vaage** (NO), **Ignacy Zalewski** (PL), **Jani Golob** (SI) and **John Casken** (UK).

ABOUT ECSA

THE EUROPEAN COMPOSER AND SONGWRITER ALLIANCE

The European Composer and Songwriter Alliance (ECSA) represents over 30 000 professional composers and songwriters in 25 European countries.

With 50 member organisations across Europe, the Alliance speaks for the interests of music creators of contemporary art and classical music, film and audio-visual music as well as popular music.

ECSA's main objective is to defend and promote the rights of authors of music at national, European and international levels by any legal means. **ECSA** advocates for equitable commercial conditions for composers and songwriters and strives to improve the social and economic development of music creation in Europe.

ECSA was initiated in Vienna in 2006 as part of the Mozartjahr festival. It was established as an alliance in Madrid on 7 March 2007 with the purpose of becoming the central body representing the interests of all music creators in Europe, giving every composer and songwriter a European voice.

PROGRAMME

29 SEPTEMBER 2016 — LJUBLJANA

LOGOS
BY BENJAMIN DE MURASHKIN

ANGER
BY IGNACY ZALEWSKI

REFLEX
BY KNUT VAAGE

BREAK

FOUR SLOVENIAN FOLK SONGS
BY JANI GOLOB

CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA (1ST AND 4TH MOVEMENT)
BY JOHN CASKEN

THE GREEN VISION
BY INDRA RIŠE

BENJAMIN DE MURASHKIN

BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin de Murashkin was born in Denmark in 1981, but already at the age of one moved to Australia with his family, where he lived for 21 years before returning to his country of birth. In Australia, Benjamin took his Bachelor with honours, majoring in composition, at The University of Melbourne. Benjamin graduated with a Master of Music, majoring in composition, from The Royal Danish Academy of Music in 2011. In 2014 he completed the Advanced Postgraduate Diploma (Solistklassen) in composition at The Royal Danish Academy of Music.

Benjamin's works include several choir pieces as well as works for solo instruments, small ensembles and the short solo opera, *Lady Macbeth*, written for the soprano Marie Grove Jørgensen who gave its premiere in 2010. Benjamin has recently composed a series of concertos with string orchestra for alto flute, accordion and violin respectively, the violin of which was premiered by Vera Panitch at Benjamin's debut concert from the conservatory in 2014.

It is in orchestral music that Benjamin's greatest passions lie and his output includes the orchestral works *LOGOS*, first performed by the Copenhagen Philharmonic in 2010 and *Distant Murmuring*, premiered in 2011 by the Aalborg Symphony Orchestra. In 2012, Benjamin was commissioned by The Copenhagen Philharmonic to compose a trombone concerto, which was premiered in March, 2013 with Christian Schmiedescamp as soloist. In 2015 Benjamin was appointed as the Copenhagen Phil's composer-in-residence for the 2015-17 seasons with a piano concerto and symphony being commissioned.

Benjamin has studied composition with Brenton Broadstock, Simon Bainbridge, Detlev Glanert, Bent Sørensen, Hans Abrahamsen and Niels Rosing-Schow amongst others, and worked with musicians such as The Copenhagen Phil, Aalborg Symphony Orchestra, Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Danish Chamber Orchestra, Ensemble Recherche, Kronos Quartet, Arditti Quartet, Michala Petri, Hymnia, Mythos and DR Big Band. As an arranger, Benjamin has worked with such diverse artists as Tina Dico, Kim Larsen, Outlandish, Cody, Nabiha, Lucy Love, Wildbirds & Peacedrums and Dressed To Thrill, in collaboration with orchestras in Denmark and Sweden.

Benjamin regularly improvises at recitals, and aims at creating a fusion between the intuitive and the systematically approached methods of composition in a language that bears influence not only of the classical tradition but also contemporary popular styles.

PROGRAMME NOTE: LOGOS

The title LOGOS refers to planetary Logoi, such as our own solar system's Solar Logos, and takes as inspiration cosmic formation and destruction.

Like a musical Big Bang, a sound of breath opens the piece's universe and starts it on its evolutionary path.

Four such impulses set off more and more layers of sound, flowing towards the top of the orchestra's range, while string chorales gather in speed and size to gradually form a climax.

In the 2nd section all sense of pulse dissipates as the strings take up a long flowing melody that hovers over a backdrop of slowly changing chords. This music builds in intensity, as the material becomes more and more compressed in tempo, leading to a violent outburst from the entire orchestra - a star exploding.

Next comes a series of brass crescendos, starting from the low register and building to a fanfare that includes the final string chorale of the first section. Out of this resounding climax the music achieves almost complete stillness as string chords gently float up to a backwards rendition of the opening music as the Universe contracts back into nothingness, awaiting the next Big Bang.



IGNACY ZALEWSKI

BIOGRAPHY

Ignacy Zalewski (born in 1990) is a prize-winner of over a dozen awards of international and all Polish composers' competitions such as the 1st prize on the Multiculturalism doesn't work? International Composers' Competition (2014),

1st prize on the 51st T. Baird Composers' Competition (2010), laureate of 3rd Prize and Special Award on International Krzysztof Penderecki ARBORETUM Composer's Competition (2012), 2nd prize on the All-Polish K. Szymanowski Composer's Competition (2013), Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage's Award for "outstanding artistic achievements" (2012).

He is also scholarship holder of the South-Korean DongSang Research Foundation (2012) and Polish Minister of Science and Higher Education (2012).

His pieces have been performed throughout Poland, in the Kyoto Alti Hall (Japan), at the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra's Olavshall (Norway), the Lviv Philharmonic Hall (Ukraine), the Concert Hall of Ukraine Composer's Union in Kiev (Ukraine), the Centre of Modern Art in Nizhnyi Novgorod (Russia) and at the Hinterzarten Konzerthaus, Rostock HMT (Germany). Zalewski has been lecturing at the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music since 2014.

PROGRAMME NOTE: ANGER

Anger was composed in 2011 and premiered in 2012 by the Polish Radio Orchestra & Szymon Bywalec (conductor).

It consists of classical ABA1 movements combined with attacca into one continuous piece without any breaks.

The piece's main emphasis was put on colorful orchestration, using a full range of sound possibilities of a symphony orchestra of this size (2.2.2.2./4.2.0.0./perc./strings),

and intricate, vitalistic rhythms (with an extended use of percussion instruments).



KNUT VAAGE

BIOGRAPHY

Knut Vaage (born in 1961) graduated as a pianist and composer from the Grieg Academy in Bergen. He has received a professional certificate as a lecturer in composition from the Norwegian Academy of Music. Vaage has worked in different styles of music, though concentrating on improvised and contemporary music. Many of Vaage's projects have investigated the boundaries between improvisation and composed music.

Vaage's productions range from symphonic works and opera to solo pieces. His music is frequently performed at concerts and festivals in Norway and abroad. Vaage's instrumental works include *Transit*, commissioned by the French Ministry of Culture and premiered by Ensemble Court-circuit; *Movements* for major sinfonietta, commissioned and premiered by the BIT20 Ensemble; *Hidden Songs*, commissioned and premiered by the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra; *Chaconne*, *Gardens of Hokkaido* and *Tjat*, premiered by the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra; *Reflex*, premiered by the Orkester Norden; *Cyclops*, premiered by the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra. *Futuration* for orchestra and electronics was premiered by Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and Ed Gardner in December 2015.

Vaage has also written a number of vocal works and works for the stage. His first opera *Someone is Going to Come*, was based on Jon Fosse's play with the same name. It was premiered by Opera Vest at the Ultima Oslo Contemporary Music Festival in 2000 and achieved national and international acclaim.

The opera is translated into English and German, and has been performed in Germany and Luxembourg. In 2010, Collegium Musicum premiered *Song of Solomon*. *Khairós* is a full scale opera developed with the librettist Torgeir Rebolledo Pedersen, commissioned by Den Norske Opera & Ballet and premiered in 2013. Rebolledo Pedersen also wrote the libretto for *Veslefrikk*, an opera in one act aimed for the whole family. It was premiered in September 2010 by Den Nye Opera, and won the ARTE audience award for best production.

PROGRAMME NOTE: REFLEX

This piece does not have a traditional form, it is made up out of different fragments. Developments over long segments are not used in this work, but the fragments may be repeated as formative elements. The reflection consists of exploring the tension between tradition and novelty. Therefore, 'Reflex' holds some reminiscence to the two "classical" pieces Dvorak's 9th and Tchaikovsky's 5th. More or less camouflaged quotes are drawn from the symphonies and partially hidden/twisted in the texture of the piece. The main focus is still on my own material, which is tonally free and continuously disintegrating.

Reflex was commissioned, financed and premiered by Orkester Norden for their tour of Norway and Sweden in 2007. The world premiere was conducted by Petri Sakari.



JANI GOLOB

BIOGRAPHY

Jani Golob (born in 1948 in Ljubljana) is a Slovenian composer, violinist, arranger and professor at the Academy of Music at the University of Ljubljana. His music opus is often on the thin line of classic, pop and jazz.

Golob has composed operas, ballets, orchestral works, chamber and vocal music, as well as numerous Slovenian film scores, music for television and music for advertising purposes.

Compositions of Jani Golob are performed by all of the most important Slovene ensembles and orchestras and also different important European artists such as: Slovakian State Philharmony Košice, Berlin Symphony Orchestra, Slovenian Philharmonic, Slovenian Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra and conductors: Anton Nanut, Uroš Lajovic, Marko Letonja, Carl Davis, George Pehlivanian, Johannes Wildner, En Shao and others.

PROGRAMME NOTE: FOUR SLOVENIAN FOLK SONGS

Four Slovenian Folk Songs is based on four Slovenian folk themes from various parts of Slovenia – one is a carol from Bela Krajina, the second one is a medieval story of two sisters Zarika and Soncica, the third one is an emigrant song from Prekmurje and the fourth one is an old ballad from Resia about a fiddler in front of hell.

The full work was first performed in 2005 in Lugano (Palazzo dei Congressi) and Amsterdam (Concertgebouw) by Slovenian Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra conducted by Maestro Anton Nanut. The first Slovenian performance was in Ljubljana (Cankarjev dom) in 2016 by the Slovenian Philharmonic and was conducted by George Pehlivanian.



JOHN CASKEN

BIOGRAPHY

One of the UK's leading composers, John Casken was born in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, in 1949 and read Music at the University of Birmingham, studying Composition under John Joubert and Peter Dickinson. From 1971-72 he studied in Poland with Andrzej Dobrowolski at the Academy of Music in Warsaw on a Polish Government Scholarship.

It was during this time that he began to have regular consultations with Witold Lutosławski with whom he formed a close association and friendship, and about whose music he has written and lectured. Casken returned to Birmingham as a Lecturer in 1973, and after a Fellowship at Huddersfield Polytechnic in 1980 he was appointed as Lecturer at the University of Durham in 1981. From 1992-2008, he was Professor of Music at The University of Manchester and retains strong links with Manchester as Emeritus Professor of Music.

Casken has featured at major festivals in Europe, the USA, and in Tokyo at the invitation of Toru Takemitsu. His works range across every genre and their titles reveal that he can be inspired both by literature and legend. Recent chamber works include *Stolen Airs* (2015) for cello and piano and *Serpents of Wisdom* (2015) for horn and piano, premiered in January 2016 at Wigmore Hall.

Casken's music has been recorded on Collins Classics, ECM, NMC Recordings, and Metier, among others. His latest disc of orchestral music, *Orion Over Farne*, was recorded by the Hallé and Markus Stenz for NMC.

PROGRAMME NOTE: CONCERTO FOR ORCHESTRA

The Concerto for Orchestra continues my interest in two-movement forms that began with my Cello Concerto (1991), and was later developed in *Sortilège* (1996) and *Symphony (Broken Consort)* (2004). In these works, and in the Concerto for Orchestra, each movement is given equal weight and importance, with the second developing earlier material and taking it in new directions. Each movement lasts about nine minutes and the overall form derives from a symphonic sonata structure.

Concerto for Orchestra was commissioned by the Musikalische Akademie of the Mannheim Nationaltheater Orchester for its first two performances on 31st March and 1st April 2008. The score is dedicated in friendship and admiration to Ronald Zollman.



INDRA RIŠE

BIOGRAPHY

Indra Riše (born in 1961) graduated from J. Vītols Latvian State Conservatory as pianist (prof. M. Švinka) in 1985 and as composer (prof. P. Plakidis) in 1990. In 1993, Riše won the scholarship of the Danish Ministry of Culture and went to Copenhagen, where she continued her studies in composition with Niels Rosing - Schow, and electro - acoustic composition with Ivar Frounberg and thus becoming the first woman in Denmark who mastered a full course in composition.

An essential role in her education also played the Summer Workshop in new Technologies for Music Performance and Composition, University of California, Berkeley (1995), the IRCAM Summer Academy in Paris (1999), the International Composer's Center in Visby, Gotland (2004, 2007) and the Opera Academy in Oslo (2001).

Riše stayed in Denmark until 2002, composing commissioned works and periodically working as a music copyist and arranger for various orchestras for the Copenhagen Royal Opera, the Samfundet sheet music publisher, and the Danish Radio. Riše has also written piano scores from dramatic - musical works by Danish composers (Ib Nørholm, Erik Norby).

Riše has been living in Latvia since 2002 and is active as a composer, revealing her locally and internationally polished talent in a comprehensive variety of genres, from songs for choirs, chamber music and electronic works to symphonic and vocal-symphonic scores.

PROGRAMME NOTE: THE GREEN VISION

It is a short story about the forest - how it comes into the city once every year. That surely happens only in spring. All kind of civilisation products - bad smell, noise and dust run away in panic from the strong power of spring. Unfortunately, it is not for a long time, but enough to remind people about fresh air, wonderful green trees and the nice smells of flowers.

“One night the Forest came into the city. At the beginning, people did not understand what was going on (...) the Stink of gasoline was breathlessly running all over the streets of the city calling for help. Someone wants it to choke, it can't breathe, the green Fog is coming from all sides of the city, it smells like Conifers and Flowers. The stink is getting ill from such a Fog, gasping for breath...”Help!”- the Stink shouted and rushed away. (...)”

Fragment from “The Green Story” by Imants Ziedons (Latvian poet, 1933-2013)



THE CONDUCTOR

JESSICA COTTIS

Hailed in the UK music press as “one to watch”, Jessica Cottis possesses intellectual rigour, innate musicality and an easy authority; she is a charismatic figure on the podium who brings dynamism, intensity and clarity of vision to all her performances.

Frequently in demand as guest conductor, highlights of recent seasons include performances with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, BBC Concert Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, and recording with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

Highlights of the season 2016/2017 include Royal Albert Hall debut for the 2016 BBC Proms with BBC Concert Orchestra. In 2014 she was appointed Principal Conductor of the Glasgow New Music Expedition.

Born in Australia and a dual British-Australian citizen, Jessica Cottis was awarded a first class honours degree in organ, piano and musicology from the Australian National University and continued her studies as an organist with Marie-Claire Alain in Paris, winning awards from the Royal Philharmonic Society and Royal College of Organists. A wrist injury subsequently halted her playing career and after reading Law, she began conducting studies in 2006, studying with Colin Metters and Sir Colin Davis on the postgraduate conducting course at the Royal Academy of Music.



THE ENSEMBLE

THE RTV SLOVENIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra was established in 1956 within Radiotelevizija Slovenija. The Orchestra was first conducted by a professor from the Academy of Music, the violin virtuoso and composer Uroš Prevoršek. The Orchestra was later conducted by Samo Hubad, Stanislav Macura, Anton Nanut and Lior Shambadal.

In September 2003, the chief conductor of the orchestra became David de Villiers; in autumn 2006 the baton was taken over by the English conductor of Chinese origin En Shao. All of them have taken the orchestra to an envying level of quality and creativity. The orchestra performs an extensive and rich repertoire from baroque to modern symphony music, opera, oratorio and cantata, stage and film music, mostly with a stress on the creativity of Slovene music.

In the past years, the orchestra has attracted the most attention at the concerts with the bands Siddharta and Terrafolk, where it engaged in so-called crossover projects. Some of the highlights from the previous years include the concert of the Symphony Orchestra RTV Slovenia with the famous pianist Ivo Pogorelić and the extraordinary concert on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Anton Nanut, the long-year artistic leader and chief conductor of the Symphony Orchestra RTV Slovenia, with the guest Irena Grafenauer, one of the most respectable flutists in the world.



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Everyone at the **DSS** for their help and support in organizing this year's **ECCO concerts**



The composers' societies of each composer featured at tonight's concert:

**the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA),
the Danish Composers' Society,
the Latvian Composers' Union,
the Polish Composers' Union (ZKP),
the Society of Slovene Composers (DSS), and
the Norwegian Society of Composers.**





FOR MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.COMPOSERALLIANCE.ORG | INFO@COMPOSERALLIANCE.ORG
TEL: +32 2 544 03 33