



# Guillaume CONNESSON

## *Adams Variations*

**Guillaume Connesson** (b. 1970) studied piano, history of music, choir analysis and direction at the Conservatoire National de Région de Boulogne-Billancourt, as well as orchestration at the Conservatoire National de Paris. He also undertook parallel courses from Marcel Landowski. He is presently professor of orchestration at the Conservatoire National de Région d'Aubervilliers. In 1998, he received the Cardin award of the French Institut of Supernova and in 1999 he received the Nadia and Lili Boulanger award. In 2000 he received the SACEM award, and in 2001 a scholarship from Natexis Foundation in 2006 he was awarded the Grand Prix Lycéen des Compositeurs. Guillaume Connesson was commissioned for most of his works, including *Supernova* (Montpellier Philharmonic Orchestra, 1997), *Athnor* (Choir and National Orchestra of France 2004) or more recently *A Glimmer in the Age of Darkness* (Royal Scottish National Orchestra, 2005) and *Aleph* (Miami New World Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National orchestra).

The six **Adams Variations** (for clarinet, violin, cello and piano) came from a commission by *France Musique* who, in order to welcome John Adams to Paris asked French composers to write variations based on the letters of his name. Connesson first encountered John Adams' music in the early '90s, relating that the encounter left an impression on his musical style. Since the encounter, Connesson has sought to "echo" Adams' music. However, Connesson notes that the second variation in fact sounds more like fellow minimalist composer Steve Reich than John Adams. In doing so, he sought to write an "homage to American minimalist music", a style that proved to be "a great revelation" for Connesson.