



Guillaume CONNESSON

Disco Toccata

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 Foundayion 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), Athanor (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).

*“My score borrows two elements from Disco music (fashionable since the end of the seventies): the stubborn assertiveness of the pulsating rhythm and the melodic formulae of string riffs. In **Disco Toccata**, I playfully develop both, exposing them to the unrelenting laws of classical music. For me, this rapidity and repetitiveness draws parallels with Baroque toccata, where instrumental virtuosity is the main expressive source. I have always been surprised by the similarities between today’s popular music and the baroque style, so I couldn’t resist the pleasure (and the provocation) of mixing the two in one short piece.”*

— Guillaume Connesson