



# Guillaume CONNESSON

## *Les Chants de l'Agartha*

**eGuillaume 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).

Agartha, like Atlantis, is a mystical kingdom, but unlike Atlantis Agartha exists underground beneath the desert of Mongolia. The **Songs of the Agartha** is a two-movement work. In the first movement, Connesson describes that kingdom. The music, described as “aggressively modern”, is atmospheric and often cast in the lower registers of the cello and piano. In the second movement, Connesson paints the dance of Agartha’s king, an absolute ruler over his kingdom. It is a “kind of wild danse macabre. Difficult to fathom at first haring, but there was no denying the brilliance...” The Songs of the Agartha were premiered by Jérôme Pernoo (cello) and Jérôme Ducros (piano) in February 2008.