



Guillaume CONNESSON

Nocturnal 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).

*“Written for flute and cello, this short virtuoso piece is a follow up to my Disco Toccata for clarinet and cello. Unlike Disco Tocata, however, which was lively and joyous, **Nocturnal Toccata** is dance of shadows, occasionally joyful but frequently disturbing. A theme of notes with irregular values is superimposed onto a regular beat and the resulting polyrhythm shifts between the flute and the cello. The break of voices in the night, murmurs and muffled noises run through the piece, cumulating in a final shriek after which the theme is blown out by the flute within the hollow harmonies of the cello.”*

— Guillaume Connesson