



André de Ridder named Artistic Director of Musica nova Helsinki

Conductor André de Ridder has been named Artistic Director of Musica nova Helsinki. The next festival will take place in February 2017. De Ridder's agreement will cover the 2017 and 2019 festival editions.

German conductor André de Ridder (b.1971) is internationally regarded as an ingenious innovator who has redefined contemporary music through engaging with all forms of what's contemporary - symphonic, pop, jazz, electronica, even recently a minimalism project with traditional musicians in Africa.

De Ridder regularly collaborates with top contemporary music ensembles and artists, including the London Sinfonietta, Ensemble Musikfabrik of Cologne, and de Ridder's own stargaze collective with whom he appears at such centres as London's Barbican and the German Ruhrtriennale festival. He performs regularly at international festivals, including BBC Proms, Holland Festival and Sydney Festival. At the summer festival Haldern Pop, de Ridder's contemporary music programme reached a younger audience profile within the rock and pop festival context.

André de Ridder recently returned to Chicago Symphony Orchestra, made his debut with Orchestre de Paris and curated and performed three concerts for Melbourne Symphony Orchestra's Metropolis New Music Festival. Next season he will make debut appearances on the new music series of the New York Philharmonic and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. In Finland, de Ridder has conducted the Tapiola Sinfonietta and, most recently, Kaija Saariaho's opera *Émilie*, presented during the spring at the Finnish National Opera.

De Ridder said of the appointment, "I feel humbled and truly excited to become involved with this wonderful festival and collaborate with the hugely rich talent of the Finnish music scene. I am greatly looking forward to working with and for Musica nova Helsinki in creating a programme that celebrates contemporary music and expands on ways of presenting and representing its evolving forms and diversity."

Topi Lehtipuu, director of Helsinki Festival from 1 October, on behalf of the main organisers of the festival, "We are extremely happy to have André de Ridder's inspired thinking and artistic innovation for the benefit of the Musica nova festival. I am looking forward to seeing André's vision bring the festival to a new level."

Musica nova Helsinki is one of Europe's most significant festival's dedicated to contemporary music, showcasing some of the most intriguing music phenomena being produced and presented in Finland and globally.

Musica nova Helsinki was founded in 1981 as a biannual contemporary music festival. From 1998 it was organised annually until returning to a biennial cycle from 2007 onwards. The main organisers of the next Musica nova Helsinki editions include the Helsinki Festival, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, YLE public broadcasting company, the Finnish National Opera and Tapiola Sinfonietta.

Musica nova Helsinki:

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