



MUSICA NOVA HELSINKI

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Musica nova Helsinki kicks off on Wednesday February 1

Finland's biggest contemporary music event features over 20 concerts and a number of premieres by both Finnish and international composers

Awarded composer guests Andrew Norman, Michel van der Aa and Lukas Ligeti

The Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra is to perform *Play*, recent winner of the Grawemeyer Award, by American composer **Andrew Norman** at the opening concert on February 1. The Boston Modern Orchestra Project performed *Play*'s premiere in 2013, and released a recording on its own label. Since then, the piece has gained considerable attention and critical acclaim. It was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Classical Contemporary Composition, and critic and musicologist **William Robin** said it "might be the best orchestral work that the twenty-first century has seen thus far."

Another item in this concert is *Spaces of Blank* by **Michel van der Aa** (Netherlands), also a winner of the Grawemeyer Award (2013) and the festival's Composer-in-Residence. The 3D opera *Blank Out*, by this leading classical music innovator, will have its Finnish premiere at the festival, and his *Hysteresis* can be heard at the concert by the Tapiola Sinfonietta.

The legacy of classic contemporary composer **György Ligeti** occupies a big role in the program for the closing weekend, February 10-12. The guest of honor will be György's son **Lukas**, who has beaten out a path of his own in the world of music, as a composer, performing artist and jazz drummer. Works by Lukas can be heard at his own profile concert, and in performances by Avanti! Chamber Orchestra and the Kamus String Quartet.

Electronic Nova at the G Livelab

The first Nova weekend, February 3–5, is dedicated to various aspects of electronic music, at Helsinki's recently-opened mecca of live music, G Livelab. The weekend starts with a solo performance by **Tyondai Braxton** (US), one of the most interesting makers of modern electronical music, also known as a former member of the cult band Battles.

British experimental producer and musician **Matthew Herbert's** latest album, *The Music*, has been released as a book. Herbert arrives at the festival on Sunday February 5 to read extracts from the book. The text describes what it would be like as an album.

The experimental stargaze collective, led by the festival's Artistic Director **André de Ridder**, will also be taking the stage at Sunday's Super-Nova. This border-crossing group will be

performing a new work by **Qasim Naqvi** as well as the full version of his recently-released *Preamble*. Naqvi is well-known as a drummer of the Dawn of Midi trio but appears at Nova as a composer. Stargaze will also be starring with **Teppo Mäkynen**, number one Finnish jazz-drummer. Their unique joint concert will present a new angle on the legendary EP *Hi Scores* by the Scottish duo Boards of Canada now enjoying cult status.

Erkki Veltheim, who is originally Finnish, but has an impressive career in his home country Australia, performs for the very first time in Finland. Veltheim, who works as a violinist, composer and an interdisciplinary performer, will be performing in G Livelab a world premiere from his solo piece.

The weekend will also give a chance to catch an experimental, partly improvised performance by German **Jan St. Werner** of IDM duo Mouse on Mars fame together with the Finnish Ears Open Ensemble and a concert by the Finnish Uusinta Ensemble where the space theme is very pronounced.

For the full programme see www.musicanova.fi

Further info, press photos, accreditation:

musicanova.fi/en/media

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Musica nova Helsinki, successor of the Helsinki Biennale founded in 1981, is one of Europe's leading contemporary music events. Held every other year, it showcases some of the most interesting new music in the world today. The Artistic Director for Nova 2017 is conductor André de Ridder. The chief organisers are the Helsinki Festival, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, the Finnish National Opera, the Tapiola Sinfonietta and the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle).