



MUSICA NOVA HELSINKI

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## European premiere of Grawemeyer Award-winning *Play* at Musica nova Helsinki

*The Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra is to perform Play by American composer Andrew Norman at the opening concert of Musica nova Helsinki on February 1. Recent winner of the Grawemeyer Award, Play will replace the premiere of Tyondai Braxton's TELEKINESIS.*

„I am excited that we have found a more than appropriate replacement for the opening concert of Nova 2017 from another young American composer. Andrew Norman already belongs to the most prolific composers working today, and his style is best described as breathtakingly exuberant and maverick. I'm proud to present the European premiere of "Play" at Musica nova“, says the festival's artistic director, **André de Ridder**.

The Boston Modern Orchestra Project performed "Play's" premiere in 2013, and released a recording on its own label. Since then, the piece has garnered 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." In October, the Los Angeles Philharmonic gave the premiere performance of "Play" in its revised form.

Norman, a Los Angeles-based composer of orchestral, chamber and vocal music, draws on an eclectic mix of instrumental sounds, notational practices and non-linear narrative structures in his work. His symphonic music has been performed by leading ensembles worldwide, such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw and the Orchestre National de France. Norman has won both the Rome Prize and the Berlin Prize, the Guggenheim Fellowship and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Music in 2012 for his string trio "The Companion Guide to Rome." He recently was named Musical America's 2017 Composer of the Year. Norman's music is published exclusively worldwide by Schott Music.

**Tyondai Braxton** is down to appear solo at Musica nova Helsinki at G Livelab on Saturday February 4. *TELEKINESIS* will be performed at Musica nova Helsinki 2019.

Musica nova Helsinki is Finland's largest contemporary music event. The theme of the festival 2017 is Open Spaces. The Artistic Director is conductor André de Ridder.

For the full programme and tickets see [www.musicanova.fi](http://www.musicanova.fi)

**Further info, press photos, accreditation:**

[musicanova.fi/en/media](http://musicanova.fi/en/media)

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*Musica nova Helsinki, successor of the Helsinki Biennale founded in 1981, is one of Europe's most important 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).*