



BORLETTI-BUITONI TRUST AWARD-WINNER JÖRGEN VAN RIJEN PREMIERES NEW TROMBONE CONCERTO BY KALEVI AHO

World premiere: 2 March 2012 Residentie Orkest/Santtu-Matias Rouvali, Schönbergzaal Koninklijk Conservatorium, Den Haag

Finnish premiere: 29 March 2012 Oulu Sinfonia/Anna-Maria Helsing, Madetoja Concert Hall, Oulu

UK premiere: 10 May BBC Symphony Orchestra/Alexander Vedernikov, Barbican, London

Dutch trombonist Jörgen van Rijen is avidly committed to broadening the repertoire for trombone as a solo instrument and has already premiered more than 15 works by composers including Theo Verbey, Martijn Padding and Jacob TV. He has personally commissioned Kalevi Aho with the remaining funds from his 2006 Borletti-Buitoni Trust Award.



Kalevi Aho is a prolific composer with a reputation that stretches far beyond his native Finland. Rouvali and Helsing, two young Finnish conductors developing remarkable international careers, conduct the first two performances of this new trombone concerto, while Bolshoi supremo Vedernikov conducts in London.

The relationship between composer and musician began two years ago in Amsterdam when they first met to discuss the commission. The resulting Concerto comprises a traditional four movements and combines lyrical with very rhythmic, percussive sections. Aho explores the full scope of the trombone's capabilities and takes full advantage of van Rijen's formidable technique, requiring him to play both tenor and alto trombone. "There is a long chorale with double-tone playing and some complex manoeuvres with valve attachment tubing and double-tongue playing as well," comments van Rijen. "It's a very difficult piece technically – but that is very exciting for me, and hopefully the audience too."

As well as this new piece for van Rijen, four more of Kalevi Aho's new works will be world premiered this year, while the Swedish label BIS will be releasing four more CDs devoted to his music during 2012.

Further press information: Debra Boraston (Borletti-Buitoni Trust)

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World Premiere Concert: 2 March 8.15pm Schönbergzaal Royal Conservatory, **Den Haag**

Kalevi Aho will also be giving a pre-concert talk

Residentie Orkest/Santtu-Matias Rouvali,

Programme: Esa-Pekka Salonen - Helix

Kalevi Aho - Trombone concerto (world premiere)

Theo Verbey - Fractal Symphony

Booking: <http://www.residentieorkest.nl/index.php?pagelD=3&year=2012&month=03>

Notes to Editors

Jörgen van Rijen: Principal trombonist of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Jörgen van Rijen is also in great demand as a soloist with a special commitment to promoting his instrument, developing new repertoire for the trombone and bringing the existing repertoire to a broader audience. He is a specialist on both the modern and baroque trombone. He has performed as a soloist in most European countries, as well as the United States, Canada, Japan, China, Korea, Russia, Singapore and Australia and performed concertos with orchestras including the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Czech Philharmonic and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. Jörgen was awarded the Netherlands Music Prize in 2004, the highest distinction in the field of music, by the Dutch Ministry of Culture. In 2006 he received the prestigious Borletti-Buitoni Trust award which is presented yearly to a selection of the most promising and talented young international soloists and ensembles. He has won other major prizes, including first prizes at the international trombone competitions of Toulon and Guebwiller.

In a review of his first CD, the music magazine 'Luister' wrote: '*Van Rijen is a real ambassador of his instrument, which is still not often used as a virtuoso brass instrument among composers. But there are not that many trombonists who reach the brilliant level of Van Rijen. In sound, dynamic, colour, musical understanding and expressiveness, Van Rijen is unequalled...*'.

Many new pieces have been written for Jörgen, including a trombone concerto by Theo Verbey, commissioned by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. Jörgen teaches at the Amsterdam Conservatory and London's Royal Academy of Music and is an active chamber musician. He was one of the founders of the New Trombone Collective and the RCO Brass. He plays exclusively on instruments built by Antoine Courtois and has released 3 CDs on the label Channel Classics.

www.jorgenvanrijen.com

Kalevi Aho snapshot:

Leading composer of the middle generation of Finnish composers □ Particularly acclaimed for his symphonies (13 to date) and concertos • Studied with Rautavaara in Helsinki and Blacher in Berlin • While composing worked as music lecturer at Helsinki University and the Sibelius Academy, before becoming a full-time freelance composer in 1993 • Moved from neo-classicism through more modernist idioms to a post-modern style • Music contrasts wide-ranging moods, styles and genres • Symphonic works often follow an 'abstract drama', similar to that in his operatic scores • Series of recordings on the BIS label •

Kalevi Aho is represented by Boosey & Hawkes in the UK, Eire, Germany, the USA, Mexico and the British <http://www.fennicagehrman.fi/composers/aho-kalevi>.

The Borletti Buitoni Trust established a relationship with Kalevi Aho ten years ago on behalf of one of its very first award winners, Martin Fröst (clarinet) who chose to commission a new concerto with his 2003 BBT award.

Other 2012 premieres of new concertos by Kalevi Aho:

Concerto for Horn and Orchestra commissioned by the Lappeenranta City Orchestra.

The world premiere in Lappeenranta, Finland conducted by Tibor Bogányi on 26 January 2012 with soloist Annu Salminen.

Trumpet Concerto co-commissioned by DeFilharmonie in Antwerpen and two Finnish wind orchestras, The Guard's Band and Sisu

The world premiere in March-April 2012 in Antwerpen

Percussion Concerto co-commissioned by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Luosto Classic Festival

The world premiere 18 April 2012 in London, LPO/Osmo Vänskä and soloist Colin Currie

Theremin Concerto scheduled to be premiered in Autumn 2012 with soloist Carolina Eyck

BIS Records 2012 releases of Aho works

BIS-SACD-1126

Chamber Symphonies No.1, 2 and 3

Tapiola Sinfonietta conducted by Jean-Jacques Kantorow / Stefan Asbury; John-Edward Kelly, saxophone

Planned Release February 2012

BIS-CD-1886

Clarinet Trio; Clarinet Quintet; Sonata for 2 Accordeons

Osmo Vänskä, clarinet; Sarah Kwak, violin; Gina DiBello, violin; Thomas Turner, viola; Anthony Ross, cello;

Susan Billmeyer; piano; Veli & Susanne Kujala, accordeon

Planned Release May 2012

BIS-CD-1946

Organ Works: Alles Vergängliche. Sinfonia for organ; Three Interludes from Symphony 8; Ludus Solemnis; In memoriam; Three wedding pieces

Jan Lehtola, organ

Planned Release August 2012

BIS-CD-1876

Oboe Concerto; Oboe Sonata; Solo IX for Oboe

Piet van Bokstal, oboe; Yutaka Oya, piano; Lahti Symphony Orchestra / Martyn Brabbins

Planned Release November 2012

These discs will join Aho's already impressive discography on BIS.