



Sauli Zinovjev:

Batteria (2016)

Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra,
cond. **André de Ridder**

Recorded at Helsinki Music Centre,
on 1 February, 2017

by **Anna-Kaisa Kemppi**

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Sauli Zinovjev

Sauli Zinovjev (b. 1988, Lahti) is one of Finland's most frequently-performed composers of his generation. Recurring themes in his art are powerful moods and stylistic diversity.

Zinovjev made his breakthrough with a work entitled *Gryf* that was one of the prize winners in the third International Uno Klami Composition Competition. Works by him have been performed by, among others, the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Lahti and Oulu Symphony Orchestras, and the Kymi Sinfonietta. He is now working on a violin concerto to be performed by Pekka Kuusisto as the soloist with the Oulu Symphony Orchestra in autumn 2017.

Sauli Zinovjev's teachers in composition have included Tapio Nevanlinna at the Sibelius Academy and Wolfgang Rihm in Karlsruhe, Germany. He is at present working on an artist's grant from the Finnish Cultural Foundation.

www.saulizinovjev.com

Batteria

Batteria, which I composed in 2016, continues my exploration of vigorous, virtuosic music, but it also steers my expression towards more extra-musical topics. Throughout the piece the rhythms are strongly tied to the pulse, from a primitive crotchet one to a more relentless clock-like tick. The rhythmic aspect is crystallised in the flash cut to a belligerent march for percussions and brass just before the climax. The arrival, positively hedonistic in its fullness, at an E-major chord at the very height of the piece acts as the firing shot for the final, ecstatic sprint against time towards the finishing line.

Acting as milestones in the overall scheme of *Batteria*, which lasts about 10 minutes, are loud chords like church bells inspired by the dramatic events in Paris, Brussels and Nice while I was composing the piece. Dedicated to life – À la vie – *Batteria* is not, however, a political statement; rather, it is purely and simply humane art from one individual to another, privately and personally.