

POLISH RADIO PROGRAMME 2



COMPOSER:

ARTUR ZAGAJEWSKI
(b. 1978)

TITLE:

brut for 11 instruments

YEAR OF COMPOSITION: 2014

DURATION: 14'38"

COMMISSION: Arte dei Suonatori Foundation

PERFORMERS:

Dominik Połośki (cello)

Arte dei Suonatori (without conductor)

RECORDING:

19 September 2014, Warsaw Autumn Festival, Warsaw Philharmonic Concert Hall

DESCRIPTION:

brut: a French word meaning raw, rough, unpolished, unworked, unpurified, primitive, primeval, brute...

This piece was inspired by a fascination with Le Corbusier and brutalist architecture. I found it particularly interesting to combine this topic with the use of historical instruments, commonly associated with quite different canons of beauty.

‘This remains one of my most important works, even though three years have passed since it was written and first performed. It defined the aspects and aesthetic issues most important to me and my music, as well as my attitude’.

‘Brut was written on the initiative of the cellist Dominik Połowski,* who was familiar with my artistic preferences and ideas; we worked together on preparing the instrument for several years. I wanted the cello to stop sounding like it was being played by a one-handed performer’.

[Artur Zagajewski]

* Dominik Połowski (b. 1977) – an outstanding cellist who, since a serious illness, uses just his right hand.

ARTUR ZAGAJEWSKI

(b. 1978)

He graduated with honours in music theory (2005, under Ryszard Daniel Golianek) and composition (2008, under Bronisław Kazimierz Przybylski) from the Music Academy in Łódź and studied electronic music with Krzysztof Knittel.

His works have been performed at festivals such as the Warsaw Autumn, Sacrum Profanum, Musica Polonica Nova, Festival of Premieres and ‘Codes’ Festival of Traditional and Avant-Garde Music in Poland, the Loop Festival (Brussels), Internationaal Kamermuziekfestival (Schiermonnikoog, Netherlands), Ankara International Music Festival (Turkey), Lodz Nacht in Stuttgart (Germany), International Festival of Acoustic, Electronic Music and Multimedia Projection in Brno (Czechia), Saxa Kammarmusicfestival (MusMA project, Sweden) and MittelFest (MusMA project, Italy).

He has won awards in such competitions as the 850 Jahre Cottbus – Musikalische Bilder einer Stadt (honourable mention, 2006), BMW Crash! of the Zachęta Contemporary Art Association in Szczecin (honourable mention in 2006 and main prize in 2007), Tadeusz Baird Young Composers’ Competition (second prize in 2007 and 2009), Krzysztof Komeda Composers’ Competition in Słupsk (honourable mention, 2007), Grażyna Bacewicz International Composers’ Competition in Łódź (first prize, 2009) and in-OUT-side competition of the Sound Screen Festival in Bydgoszcz (main prize, 2009). In 2010, he was awarded the Łódź Eureka Prize. In 2014, his Stabat Mater was nominated for the Polonica Nova Award in Wrocław. He has published the results of his research into rock music in lectures and articles written for such magazines as *Glissando* and *Operomania*. He is an assistant professor at the Music Academy in Łódź and a member of the Polish Composers’ Union and the Programme Committee of the Warsaw Autumn International Festival of Contemporary Music.