

Oscar Bianchi: Achat de Chevaux (2008)

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The ability to make decisions outside the realm of karma: this is my favourite meaning of the fourth chakra, Anahata. Since music and all intellectual activities are closely related to life forces, I found Anahata to be a powerful symbol for the expression of all the options that are available to an individual both socially and artistically. This is a concerto, because the qualities necessary for making decisions outside the realm of karma demand virtuosity. Conscious of the idealistic aspects of this concept, I have stressed this so-called “ability” rhetorically by interacting with specific music elements, such as rising glissandi (potential metaphors for challenges to gravity) and rhythmic ostinati (the perpetual advance of life).

Anahata Concerto is dedicated to Beat Furrer and the Klangforum Wien.

Oscar Bianchi, November 2008



Winner of the 2005 Gaudeamus prize, Italian-Swiss composer Oscar Bianchi is quickly becoming recognized by critics, fellow musicians, and audiences as one of the most idiomatic and dynamic composers of his generation. His music, which is characterized by dense textures, vivid imagination, and dramatic tension has already been played to critical acclaim by major ensembles such as Ictus, Les Percussions de Strasbourg, Nieuw Ensemble, Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart, Ensemble l'itinéraire in venues like Lincoln Center, Merkin Hall NY, Muziekgebouw, Venice Biennale, Musica Strasbourg, Ircam Centre-Pompidou, Abbaye de Royaumont, Eclat Stuttgart, Ars Musica Brussels, World New Music Days-Tage für Neue Musik Zürich. His works have been broadcasted in many European national radio stations.

Latest works include *Matra*, a concert-length cantata premièred by Ictus ensemble with Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart, as well as ensemble piece *Trasparente*, premièred by Ensemble Algoritmo and then by ICE Ensemble.

Further projects will feature works for Klangforum Wien, Les Percussions de Strasbourg, SWR Vokalensemble, Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart, QNG Quartet and a new opera in collaboration with Ictus and T&M.

Recipient of a fellowship from the Ictus ensemble (2005–07), Mr. Bianchi is presently Faculty Fellow at Columbia University of New York, where he is working towards a PhD in composition. During his studies of composition, choral music, conducting, and electronic music at the G. Verdi Conservatory in his native Milano, he performed regularly in several music groups also experiencing national TV music productions. He subsequently moved to Paris to participate in the yearlong composition cursus organized by Ircam. Mr. Bianchi has had additional opportunities to work with many of the foremost figures in contemporary composition at master classes and residencies organized by: Abbaye de Royaumont, Darmstädter Ferienkurse, Stuttgart Eötvös Course, Città di Castello, Stockholm International Composition Course and the Atlantic Center for the Arts.