

## **Raffaele Grimaldi**

**Holon** – Due visioni olistiche per ensemble in forma di studio, 2008/2010



Raffaele Grimaldi © Guido Suardi

A holon (from greek holos – whole) is something that is simultaneously a whole and a part. The word was coined by Arthur Koestler in his book *The Ghost in the Machine*. My piece is closely inspired by his concepts and is divided into two parts, two sort of etudes, about the search of the whole and the single part. Every section has an autonomous life, but there is correlation in between them.

The first part is very balanced, in terms of color, structure, relationship among the instruments. There is a sort of inner dramaturgy, where every single part has a specific role, in order to create the whole sense; the prevailing metaphor is on a sort of soul-aura (the sound) that surrounds and wanders around the physical appearance (the instrumentalist). On the macroformal level the piece is composed by only one arc described from the beginning to the end, through which works a continuous transition with a central, firm and hypnotic junction, on the contrary, in its embryo germinate, flourish and change into microstructures, in which every element, every sonorous matter is being worked out according to a gradual process of timbric – harmonic scattering.

Contrarily to the first part the second one is strongly unbalanced, where the figure of the soloist (the flute) – the single part – dominates the scene.

The piece lives of particular contrasts, of embankments that have to be crossed, in which shape and fragments are being perceived thanks to the construction and agglomeration of their same harmonic / disharmonic profiles, through an essential temporal space.

It is a dance of essences, of lines that intersect each other, of sonorities that stand out hazy in delicate games of light/shade, of figurative shapes that chase each other, overlap until they get mixed up.

Until when the sound, progressively disintegrates by itself and its articulations, becomes dust (the pulsation of the keys) and the harmonic field – on which the whole piece is fixed – through a slow metamorphosis becomes pure noise.

Raffaele Grimaldi

**Raffaele Grimaldi** (1980) Composer, pianist and conductor

He graduated in piano with Carmen Romano and composition with Lucia Ronchetti at the Conservatory of Music G. Martucci in Salerno with highest honors, and graduated with the highest honors at the Master's courses (high improvement in composition) of Ivan Fedele at the National Santa Cecilia Academy in Rome. Grimaldi has obtained some prizes in national and international competitions and followed the masterclass of Salvatore Sciarrino, Brian Ferneyhough, Georges Aperghis, Michael Jarrell, Marco Stroppa, Hugues Dufourt, Yan Marez, Bruno Mantovani. His compositions have been performed in Europe (Italy, France, The Netherlands, Spain, England, Albany, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Greece), USA (New York, Boston, Des Moines), Japan (Tokyo), Russia (Moscow), Australia (Melbourne) and broadcasted by NRN-FM Japanese National Radio, Ö1 - Radio Österreich 1, Sveriges Radio P2, Radio-Canada, Taukay Radio, VPRO RADIO, Concertzender Radio, RADIO 4 eigentijds (Holland) Radio Rai International and Rai Radio 3 (Italy), and performed by Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre Nationale de Lorraine, Orchestra del Conservatorio G. Martucci di Salerno, chamber ensembles like the Ensemble Recherche, Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Studio for New Music Moscow, VocaalLAB Amsterdam, Ensemble Algoritmo, Quartetto Prometeo, Ictus and Nadar Ensemble, Amsterdam Collage Ensemble, Ensemble Transmission, FontanaMIXensemble, Ensemble Aleph, Monesis Ensemble, Interensemble, soloists like Mario Caroli, Valentina Coladonato, Simone Beneventi, Ann Cravero, Matteo Cesari, Francesco Filidei, Erik Carlson, Franz Josef Hauser and directed by prestigious conductors like Zolt Nagy, Tetsuji Honna, Marco Angius, Jacques Mercier, Flavio Emilio Scogna, Frank Wörner, Philippe Nahon. He has developed musicology activity at the San Carlo theatre of Naples, obtaining a scholarship for his studies. He has been selected by the Reading Panel 2008 – IRCAM (Paris) for the Cursus 1 in Composition and Computer Music 2008/2009, and obtaining the artistic residence at the Cité Internationale des Arts.

Raffaele Grimaldi has been composer in residence with the Aleph Ensemble – L'Arbresle (France) in 2008, N.E.M. Nouvel Ensemble Moderne – Montreal (Canada) in 2010, Schloss Solitude Akademie in Stuttgart (Germany) in 2010/2011, Fondazione Spinola-Banna per l'arte in Torino (Italy) in 2011 and received commission from prestigious festivals like the San Carlo Theatre of Naples, Acanthes Festival, Ass. Nuova Consonanza, Festival Valle d'Itria, Fondazione Spinola-Banna, Xenia Ensemble & Studio for New Music Moscow, Hameln 2012 Jubiläum, Rudolf Eberle Foundation, Biennale di Venezia.

In his professional activity he has held lectures and workshops about his music at some important institutions like the University of Montreal, University of Turin, the Schloss Solitude Akademie of Stuttgart, the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Moscow, the Conservatory of Utrecht.

Since 2009 he has collaborated with the writer, philosopher and poet Diego Giordano, with whom he has produced various musical theatre works.

His works are published by Raitrade (Rome) and Suvini-Zerboni (Milano).

Besides he cultivates painting, poetry and philosophy with particular interest. Since September 2014 Raffaele Grimaldi is Fellow Composer at the French Academy in Rome – Villa Medici. He is co-founder of the blog [www.nothing.eu](http://www.nothing.eu) where he writes about contemporary music.

[www.raffaelegrimaldi.com](http://www.raffaelegrimaldi.com)