

Michal Rataj

COMPOSER, MUSICOLOGIST,
MUSIC AND SOUND EDITOR,
RADIO PRODUCER

- borned 1975, Czech Republic
 - graduated from the Faculty of Arts at the Charles University, dep. of musicology (1999)
 - graduated from the Academy of Music, dep. of composition, Prague (2003)
 - PhD. studium since 2003, thesis on electronic ways of expressions within new radio art
 - since 1999 – music editor of the Czech Radio, Prague
 - in 1995 music studies at the Royal Holloway University of London, Great Britain
 - in 1998 study at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and Hans Eisler Musikhoschule (history of German music, computer music systems and Algorithmic Composition, CLISP, Common Music, etc.).
 - 2001: jury member of the Prix Italia (Radio Music)
 - 2002: music studies at the Universität der Künste, Berlin (F. M. Olbrisch)
 - 2004: Artist-in-Residence. MuseumsQuartier Wien
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- composing music for stage and radio plays, cooperation with several magazines focused on contemporary music and interpretation, i. e. (Harmonie, HIS Voice, „Bulletón“ of the Warner Chappel CZ company).
 - 2000: 1st Price in the composers competition Generation (chamber music)
 - 2001: 3rd price in the Musica Nova competition (electronic music)
 - member of the EBU Ars Acustica group
 - member of the SHOCK composer group – www.ishock.org
 - lectures on the history of contemporary music (New York University, Prague, Seniors´ university, Prague)
 - review, articles on the contemporary music and interpretation (daily press, Harmonie – classical music magazine etc.)

Realized and forthcoming project in the sphere of contemporary, stage and film music

1. instrumental and vocal music and projects focused on combinations of acoustics and electronics, radiophonics, radio art and ars acustica (selected list)

Many performances of instrumental, vocal and electronic music (see the list below) at various concerts and radio stations in:

Czech republic (festivals, local concerts and projects, Czech Radio broadcasting)

Germany (*Quem queritis* – instrumental sextet, Bayerischer Rundfunk, 2001)

(*Double twilight of the Millenium* – radiophonic piece, Deutschland Radio 2002)

Austria (*live improvisation* at the V:NM Festival 2001, *Five times the same* – Radiohaus Wien 2004)

New Zeland (*Double twilight of the Millenium* – radiophonic piece, Radio New Zeland, 2001)

Sweden (*Double twilight of the Millenium*, 2003)



Breath, time, flash... (2002) – contemporary dance project with flute solo and live electronics

(... we have witnessed really good and professional project, quite individual in our relations....)

HIS Voice – Magazine for contemporary music, 3/2002

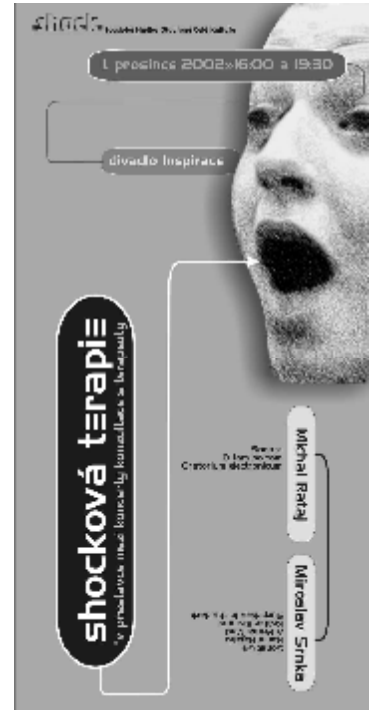
SHOCK Therapy (2002)

contemporary music and light design project

presented pieces: *Oratorium electronicum*, *About the after that*, *Sonare*

(... Understanding and lighting up among each other and an effort to do things „on another way“, but anyway natural, with a certain taste and good ideas - was to be felt from all the artists....)

Harmonie, magazine for serious, jazz and world music



Deconstruction (Dekonstrukce), (2003)

Project of the spacialized music for ensemble, solos, man choir and surround electronics together with gregorian chant. Piece called The Vitkov Oratorio has been written for that event.



(...space, panorama, sound, silent, echo, hall, cultural tradition and its contemporary interpretation... history and youth...)

from the programm brochure of the project

Pablo Picasso – Painting with my own blood (2003)

- radiophonic piece concerning the 30th anniversary of Pablo Picasso's death

nomination on the Prix Italia 2003 competition

Rely – Relay – Relation (Vienna, 2004)

live electronic performance with voice, samples and computer (performed in Kraków, Praha and Brno)

Adam and Eve (spring 2005)

- music theatre for one male actor, male and female voice with a pure electronic music

- this music-theatre piece is trying to solve the topics of relation between a man and a woman in their historical, mythological and anthropological sense of meaning

2. large number of music composed for radio plays, theatre and television, (selected list) i. e.:

Czech Radio 2: Tom Sawyer Detective (2000)

Czech radio 3: Get up, please – Prix Italia nomination, prize of the listeners for the best radio play 2001

G. Lorca: Charming shoemaker lady (Prague. 2000) – interactive music for theater play

J. Steinbeck: Of Mice and Man – music for theatre, autumn 2003

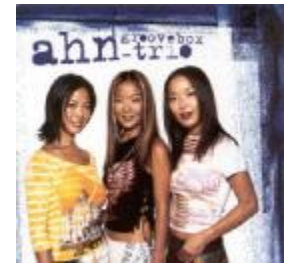
Christmas puppet – an original czech TV-fairytale, 2003

3. Recordings, other cooperation

- CD EMI Classic, New York, 2002

Ahn-Trio: Groovebox.

arrangements of the Doors „Riders on the Storm“ and A. Piazzolla Tangos

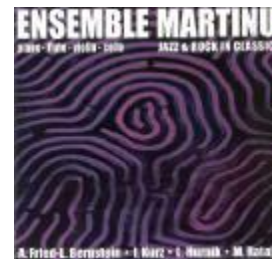


The program for 'Groovebox' returns to a proven formula that provides an exciting sequel to their previous album 'Ahn-Plugged.' Featured on the new album are fresh compositions written for the Ahn Trio by Kenji Bunch, Maurice Jarre and Michael Nyman. Two Michal Rataj arrangements appear on this album as well — 'Riders on the Storm' and an Astor Piazzolla tango entitled 'Milonga De Angel.' Fans of the Ahn Trio and their progressive programming will be thrilled with this latest effort, it is fascinating, accessible music superbly played.

Northeast Asia Forum, 10/2002

- CD Radioservis, Czech Radio, CZ, 2003

Parallel (Dis-)Harmonies – piece for chamber ensemble and percussion. Ensemble Martinů



- CD sampler HIS Voice 2003, CZ, 2004
oratorium electronicum – electronic piece made in Berlin, 2002

- CD Supraphon, CZ, 2002

Tribute to Freddie Mercury

symphonic arrangements of the Queen's *Under pressure*



- Sound graphics author of the Czech Radio 3, 2002
complete sound design for the live broadcasting of the 3rd Channel of the Czech Radio

List of concert and radio compositions

Laudes (fl solo)	1996
Antigone (fl, vcl, pno)	1996
String quartet (2vno, vla, vcl)	1997
Quem queritis (cl, pno, 2vno, vla, vcl)	1997
The mythos about the eternal return	1999
Sonare (fl, pno, electronic playback)	1998
Christmas meditation, electronic music	2000
Nine meditation about the unknown (fl, cl, ob, cor, fg, vno, vla, vcl, cb)	2000
Five times the same	2000
<i>(1. prize Generace 2001)</i>	
Rexultet (voc, 2pno, 2vcl, cl, perc., vib, electronic)	2000
...per saecula saeculorum... (vcl solo, electronic)	2000
<i>(3rd prize Musica Nova)</i>	
St. Duke of our despere (chamber symphony orchestra)	2001
('Bout the after that), (cl, fl, vcl, cb, pno)	2001
The double twilight of the Millenium (radiophonic piece)	2001
Death, time, flash... (fl, electronic)	2002
Parallel (dis)harmonies (fl, vno, vcl, pno, perc)	2002
The Vítkov Oratorio	2002
(fl, cl, cor, tp, 2vno, vla, vcl, cb, 2perc, org, sopr, coro masc, surround electronic)	
Oratorium electronicum (elektronická hudba)	2002
African Beauty in Berlin (radiophonic piece)	2002
SHOCK – interactive (sound instalation within the project SHOCK Therapy)	2002
Tolikrát...? (So many times...?), (sopr, pno, fg)	2003
Pablo Picasso: Painting with an own blood	
(radiophonic piece, honorary price Prix Bohemia 2003, nomination the Prix Europa 2003, Prix Italia 2003)	
	2003
Adam and Eve	
(soprano, tenor, man-actor and live-electronic), 40´	
	2004
Rely – Relay – Relation	2004
electronic music, 9´	
Looking For What...?	2004
(pno, vno, vcl)	

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