



TENSO

The European network for professional chamber choirs

Tenso Young Composers Award 2015 for Sebastian Androne

jury report

The Tenso Young Composers Workshop gives participants a chance to work closely with a professional chamber choir, so that they may enhance their knowledge of vocal techniques and the musical possibilities of *the choir as instrument*. The fourth edition of the workshop, which was organized for the first time in 2010, initially chose five composers from more than 40 applicants from all over Europe. During two sessions in Mechelen in May 2015, the workshop leaders worked with the young composers and heard their scores (short pieces or sketches) performed by Musicatreize. After evaluating the material they brought and the way they worked with the choir, three finalists were chosen to participate in the second round in Marseille in February 2016 : Sebastian Androne, Sofia Borges and Léo Collin.

The three composers selected for the second-round chose their texts from the period 1914-1918, as part of Tenso's project *14-18 From Poetry to Music*. Two composers chose texts by poets from two sides of the trenches: Apollinaire and August Stramm; the third used fragments from the memoirs of Queen Marie of Romania.

The workshop was coached by composer/conductor James Wood, composer Leo Samama, conductor Roland Hayrabedian and chamber choir Musicatreize. Tenso would especially like to thank the singers of the choir for giving generous coaching to the composers with questions and well-reasoned comments, which will undoubtedly contribute to their development in vocal writing.

The three candidates participating in the second round of the workshop come from very different backgrounds, and are at very different stages in their development as composers, as shown in the diversity of the music they brought to the sessions. The jury was happy to see that all three had made real progress in their work since the first round of the workshop in May 2015.

The music that **Sebastian Androne** (Romania, 1989) brought to the workshop touched the jury, performers and audience. His choice of lyrics – from the diary of British-born queen Marie of Romania during WWI – was a real discovery. Androne uses a highly communicative musical language, showing sophistication in both horizontal (melodic) and vertical (harmonic) lines.

In her compositions, **Sofia Borges** (Portugal, 1979) touches on magical things as if by chance. Her writing technique may not yet be on the same level as her imagination, but she shows great promise. The jury hopes that, in the next steps of her development, she will be able to bring her music one step further, and looks forward to see the results in the near future.

Léo Collin (France, 1990) showed an interesting search for new sounds in his engagement with the human voice. He chose a fascinating text, but did not fully manage to convey the urgency of the words of Apollinaire in his music. As a result his composition made the impression of an (amusing) play with notes. The jury encourages him to find his inner voice without seeking refuge in gadgets and elaborations.

The workshop sessions result in commissioning one of the composers to write a new work, to be premiered by one of the members of the Tenso network in the next season. The jury, consisting of James Wood, Leo Samama, Roland Hayrabedian and Musicatreize, decided to award the commission to the composer who showed the most progress in the workshop sessions, and who may profit most from the coaching and the ideas developed during the sessions. It is with great pleasure that the commission has been awarded to Sebastian Androne.

The award consists of

- a commission fee of € 1500 for a new piece for a cappella choir
- additional individual coaching by the workshop leaders
- an invitation to attend the premiere by a Tenso choir in a European city