

Kaija Saariaho

The Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho has been living and working in Paris since 1982, which is when she attended courses in computer music at IRCAM in Paris. Since then the computer has been a fundamental element of her composing technique.

The principal works of Kaija Saariaho are *Verblendungen* (orchestra and tape, 1982-84), *Lichtbogen* for chamber ensemble and electronics (1985-86), *Jardin Secret I* (tape, 1984), *Jardin Secret II* (harpsichord and tape, 1984-86), *Io* (for ensemble, tape and electronics, 1986-87), *Nymphea* (for string quartet and electronics, 1987, a commission from the Lincoln Center), a radiophonic work *Stilleben* (1987-88) and orchestra pieces *Du cristal* (1989-90, a commission from the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and Helsinki Festival) and *...a la fumee* (1990, a commission from the Finnish Radio).

The latest larger scale piece is *Amers* (1992), a piece for cello, ensemble and electronics, a commission from IRCAM and Barbican center.

Apart from producing works of her own Kaija Saariaho has taken part in a number of multimedia productions involving the various arts. The most recent work of this kind is the ballet *Maa* (1991), a collaboration with the choreograph Carolyn Carlson for the Finnish National Ballet.

Kaija Saariaho is receiving from the Finnish Government an artist's salary for her compositional work. In 1986 she was awarded the Kranichsteiner Preis at the new music summer courses in Darmstadt, and in 1988 the Prix Italia, for her work *Stilleben*. In 1989 her works *Stilleben* and *Io* were awarded with the Ars Electronica Prize.

Saariaho's music is available on the Finlandia, Ondine, Wergo, Neuma and BIS record labels.