



Media release

The Fifth New Work from the Roche Commissions: *Woven Dreams* by Toshio Hosokawa

In 2008 the Japanese composer Toshio Hosokawa received the fifth Roche Commission. His new orchestral work will now be presented at this year's LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer, when *Woven Dreams* is premièred by the Cleveland Orchestra under Franz Welser-Möst on 28 August 2010 . The US première will be given in New York's Carnegie Hall on 4 February 2011.

Toshio Hosokawa, Japan's most famous living composer, straddles boundaries between cultures. His distinctive musical idiom is noteworthy for the tension he creates between the western avant-garde and traditional Japanese culture, especially the static structures of Japan's courtly music, the *gagaku*. His works often focus on nature and its multifarious creations – and especially its transience. 'Transience is beautiful', explains Hosokawa, who uses an analogy with the Buddhist notion of the parity of life and death to describe his musical language: 'The tone comes out of silence, lives, and returns to silence.'

Born in Hiroshima in 1955, Hosokawa travelled in 1976 to Berlin, where he studied composition with Isang Yun. He then continued his studies with Klaus Huber and Brian Ferneyhough. In addition to his many awards and distinctions, he is a member of the Berlin Academy of the Arts (2001) and a Fellow of the Berlin Wissenschaftskolleg (2006).

In 2003 Roche, LUCERNE FESTIVAL, Carnegie Hall and the Cleveland Orchestra agreed to launch an innovative model of co-operation in cultural sponsorship, giving it the title 'Roche Commissions'. Roche commissions an outstanding composer of our time to write a new work. The composer is proposed by the artistic directors of LUCERNE FESTIVAL, Carnegie Hall and the Cleveland Orchestra. The commissioned work is then premièred at LUCERNE FESTIVAL in Summer, followed by the American première in Carnegie Hall the following season. Both concerts are performed by the Cleveland Orchestra under Franz Welser-Möst. In this way Roche continues its long tradition of commitment to culture. Moreover, this project allows the world's outstanding contemporary composers to work with leading cultural institutions on two continents.

Roche Commissions have previously been awarded to Harrison Birtwistle (2003), Chen Yil (2004), Hanspeter Kyburz (2005) and George Benjamin (2006).

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