

Henrik Hellstenius

# BY THE VOICE A FAINT LIGHT IS SHED

## Concerto for violin and ensemble

Composed in: 2001

Instrumentation:

Fl, Ob, Cl, Bs, Hrn, Tp, Tb, 2 perc, Hp, Pf, Solo Vln, 2 Vln, Vla, Vlc, Cb

Dedicated to: Peter Herresthal

Duaration: 22´

The concerto was written for the violinist Peter Heresthal and is the third piece coming out of a collaboration between him and the composer Henrik Hellstenius. The first project between them was music for the world premiere of a play by the norwegian playwright Jon Fosse, and the second was a piece for violin and tape, «Dream of Late», premiered at the Ultima festival in Oslo in 2000. This concerto is a result of this long collaboration in the sense that many elements in the violin part are from the exploration the violinist and the composer have carried out.

The structure of the piece is based on the reoccurrence or cycling of harmonic and sonic shapes and figures both in the violin part and in the ensemble. In one sense the piece has the form of four spirals where one long harmonic cycle is the basis of the development in the four main sections in the piece. This cycle is in itself formed as a spiral with reoccurring harmonic elements. In between the four main sections there emerges shorter sections in the shape of trios and duets which are of a freer harmonic and gestic nature. The idea of a spiral development is a central element in this piece as in much of Hellstenius' music, and gives a picture of the fundamental themes this piece and many other pieces of Hellstenius attempts to address: the simultaneous co-existence of the contrasting elements of stagnation and movement.