

Gediminas Gelgotas' music appeal to a younger and new audience of classical music, while the critics acknowledge the unique and highly attractive musical language, which is based on modern multi – stylistic influences and combines austere, melodic beauty with a stunning rhythmic drive.

In an attempt to become thoroughly acquainted with the art of music, Gediminas Gelgotas (b. 1986) explored and studied its various forms. From 1993 to 2005 he studied piano, trumpet and composition at the National M. K. Čiurlionis School of Art (Vilnius, Lithuania). In 2011 he graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, where he studied composition with Vytautas Barkauskas and orchestral conducting with Gintaras Rinkevičius. Later he continued his academic pursuits at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg, where he studied composition with Peter Michael Hamel (2009–2010).

His work *Never Ignore the Cosmic Ocean* was premiered in Berlin Konzerthaus with the Baltic Youth Philharmonic conducted by Kristjan Järvi in 2012 and was described as “a sensation” (Neue Musikzeitung, 2012). On September 1, 2013 *Never Ignore the Cosmic Ocean* was broadcasted on 8 broadcasting stations in Germany – NDR Kultur, Nordwestradio, Kulturradio, MDR Figaro, WDR3, HR2, SR2 Kulturradio, SWR2. Soon after its premiere „*Never Ignore the Cosmic Ocean*“ get started to migrate throughout prestigious European festivals, it turned out to be a reference point for international career of Gelgotas.

Today, at age 29, Gelgotas' music has already been presented at prestigious classical music festivals: Beethoven's (Bonn, 2014), Verbier (2014), Schleswig – Holstein (2013), Young Euro Classics (Berlin, 2012), Usedom (2012) and others. Recently his music was commissioned by „Orpheus Foundation“ (Switzerland), Middle Germany Radio Orchestra (MDR orchestra, Leipzig, Germany), „Vilnius Festival“ (Lithuania), „Baltic Sea Youth Philharmonic“ and others. The world premiere of his first symphony “*Extracultural*” took place at the prestigious Leipzig Gewandhaus concert hall on January 17th, 2015.

In 2010 the composer signed a contract with an independent publisher of the contemporary classical music Peermusic Classical (Germany–USA), which publishes and distributes his scores.

The music of Gediminas Gelgotas is fervently cruising the territories belonging to the lively microcosms of the European contemporary art scene and is beginning to permeate the North American expanses. His complex artistic language is based on a refined audio-visual aesthetic that is flavored with sometimes sharp, and sometimes gentle hints of (post)minimalism, and contains a universally relevant subject matter, integrated into the titles of his works (*What's Unrobotizable*, *Never Ignore the Cosmic Ocean*, *Extracultural*.)

In order to put his creative vision into action, Gediminas Gelgotas turned to an effective model widely employed by the American minimalist composers and in 2006 he established his own ensemble – the New Ideas Chamber Orchestra (NICO). NICO presented Gelgotas' music in the European and American concert spaces,

such as the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London and the platform for contemporary art 21er Haus in Vienna. NICO is a string ensemble that he continues to lead today.

Gelgotas' musical language to some degree and intensity belongs to the category of (post)minimalism, and exhibits all characteristic, yet not necessarily coexisting, traits of (post)minimalist music. In retrospect, it becomes evident that the themes of nature manifested in the general mood and prevailing lyricism that distinguished his creative output in the past, is now being replaced with subjects of global civilisation. It is followed by the frequent appearance of broken melodic segments, short, pointy sections, occasional rigid 'roboticisms' (in rhythm, melody and musical temper), as well as by the employment of somewhat aggressive, unconventional string techniques. Nevertheless, that sensuous nucleus, like leverage, remains intact.

Gediminas Gelgotas' courageous musical 'events,' sometimes denominated as 'contemporary rock wearing the dress of academic music,' represent a syncretic form of minimalist art and are comprised of minimal choreography, lighting, scenographic and visual effects, and performing artists. Combined with music, these elements resemble a little theater, a show. And yet, the performances of Gelgotas and NICO neither attempt to fall under the genre of academic music, nor seek the label of a pop spectacle. They find themselves a better fit in that stretch called the 'in-between.'

G. Gelgotas has also produced music for several Lithuanian cinema and theater productions, in 2012 for his work in this area he has been nominated for the Golden Stage Cross award (Lithuania).