

Ruta Paidere (1977) was born in Latvia and acquired her primary musical education at the local music school, developing a firm conviction to become a musician.

In 1992 Ruta was admitted to the Music Theory Department of Riga Jāzeps Mediņš Music College, where she greatly benefitted from composition lessons with Tamāra Kalna– the tutor encouraged the development of independent and critical thinking, drawing attention to the smallest nuances of music and steadily motivating her students to look for their own, individualized means of expression. The compositions created during the time spent at Riga Jāzeps Mediņš Music College were commended at several competitions for young composers of Latvia.

Ruta continued her musical education at the Hamburg University of Music and Theatre, studying composition (initially with Peter Michael Hamel) and music theory and graduating in 2005 with a composition “Fractures” for string orchestra, accordion and vibraphone.

In 2003 she honed her composition skills at Dartington College of Arts in Great Britain. In 2005 she was admitted to the piano class of Prof. Volker Banfield at the Hamburg University of Music and Theatre. Close ties with the practical, applied musicianship have always been integral to her musical identity – as a performer she has participated in many contemporary music events, including performances of her own pieces. The compositions of Ruta have been performed across Europe, Israel and the USA, in various concert series, as well as at such festivals as *Musica* in Strasbourg, *Junges Musikforum* in Cologne, *ADEvantgarde* in Munich, *Arēna* and *Latvian New Music Days* in Riga, *Budapest Spring Festival*, *Music unsererZeit* in Munster, *Tenso Days* in Berlin, *Schleswig-Holstein Musikfestival* in Northern Germany, *Two Days and Two Nights* in Odessa or *Baltic Sea Festival* in Stockholm. She has been commissioned to write opuses for various institutions, including the contemporary music masterclasses *Akademie OPUS XXI*, Bavarian Academy of Arts/Ernst von Siemens Music Fund, Cologne Radio, *KlangZeit* festival in Munster, Latvian Radio Choir vocal group, chamber orchestra *Sinfonietta Rīga* and piano competition *TONALI Grand Prix* in Hamburg.

Her most substantial compositions have been performed by the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, *Hamburger Symphoniker*, Latvian Radio Choir, *Nathan Quartet*, *Mouzar Trio* with mandolin player Avi Avital, ensemble *Resonance* and *Sinfonietta Riga*.

Since 2007 she teaches music theory at the Hamburg University of Music and Theatre and at the Hamburg Conservatory. She has a specific interest in the development of musical hearing and, in particular, in skills that are necessary for perception and “hearing” of contemporary music in a wider sense of this term.

Ruta has received scholarships from the culture funds *Oscar und Vera Ritter Stiftung* and *Pro Musica Viva Stiftung*. In 2003 she was the recipient of the DAAD (*Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst*) Award for foreign students in Germany. In 2005 she received the Hermann and Annemarie Rauhe Contemporary Chamber Music Award and in 2007 – the Bach Award-Scholarship of Hamburg City. In 2012 her composition *Tempera* was nominated for the Latvian Great Music Award as the Best New Composition of the Year.

R. Paidere has a son and lives in Hamburg with her family.