

Osmo Tapio Räihälä - Biography -

Osmo Tapio Räihälä (*1964) is one of the most interesting contemporary composers in Finland. Unlike most of his music peers, Räihälä started as a rock musician, and turned his attention to art music only in his late teens. Räihälä studied musicology at the Turku and Helsinki Universities, and composition with Harri Vuori.

Räihälä's music, almost all of it instrumental, uses clear colours and a visuality, that stems from his interest towards visual arts. Räihälä himself experiences music as images: colours, shapes, lines, values, surfaces ... These visual associations may be experienced in his music for instance in the shifting of styles, the contrasts between motifs and the clear-cut melodic sequences.

Räihälä's breakthrough work was 'Barlinnie Nine' (1999/2005), an orchestral tribute to the Scottish soccer player Duncan Ferguson. It is a colourful work, depicting the numerous stop-starts in the career of Ferguson, who was known as a soccer bad boy.

Räihälä's music has been performed in about two dozen countries on five continents. Apart from his work as a composer, Räihälä is known for his activity on television and radio in his native Finland.