

# RAFAEL REINA

*(short version)*

Rafael Reina was born in 1961 in Equatorial Guinea. At the age of seven he moved to Madrid where he later studied bass guitar. In 1984 he left to Boston to study composition at the Berklee College of Music. Then he studied with, Johannes Fritsch and J.L. de Delás in Cologne.

Since 1992 he travels regularly to Bangalore, India, to explore the theory of Karnatic (South-Indian classical) music with Jahnvi Jayaprakash and N.G. Ravi.

In 1993 he settled himself in Amsterdam where he became lecturer at the Conservatory of Amsterdam in 1995. He developed a four-year programme based on Karnatic music theory with applications to Western contemporary music and jazz.

Rafael Reina bases his compositions since 1993 on the concepts of Karnatic music. The natural tuning, as it is being used in Karnatic music, is so subtle and nuanced that Reina feels compelled to use more pitches than those in the tempered 12-tone system.

To approximate the Karnatic concepts he mostly makes use of the tempered quarter-tone system, and of special instrumental techniques and non-traditional sounds. Next to these, he tries to incorporate also non-western instruments in many of his compositions.

He has composed three operas: Two in collaboration with Petra Weimer ('Wolfli, a journey into chaos' and 'HesseIndia') and one with the conductor/ percussionist Josep Vicent, called '1714, Mon de Guerres'.

He has also composed a lot of chamber music, that has been performed in the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Rusia, United States, England, Australia, Taiwan, India and Spain.