

### **Three Stanzas on the Name of Patrice Emery Lumumba**

for solo viola, viola da gamba, two double basses, harp and timpani (10')

Première: October 11, 2008, Festival Présence, Radio France, Paris

The three stanzas, written for the viola player, Hélène Desaint, and played without any breaks, pay tribute, with all due modesty, to the distinguished politician who was the leading figure in achieving independence for the Congo in 1960 - Patrice Emery Lumumba.

In 1961, after only a few months in power, he was the victim of sordid plotting backed by Belgians and Americans and was arrested and executed. These were the first pictures of violence I had ever encountered as a child and they have remained etched in my memory ever since.

For the structure of the piece, I wanted to follow the tradition of using the letters of the name, Patrice Lumumba: -A---CE -----BA. This was far from the opportunities of BACH, DSCH (Dmitri Shostakovich) and the Es, S of Stravinski (Eflat) in Rituel by Boulez, so I chose the intervals only (third, second, fifth) and the inversions.

In the third stanza, the name is transposed in Morse code, in a series of longs and shorts, repeating in simple yet secret polyrhythmics the name of Patrice Emery Lumumba.