

# News from the composers' labs

## First performances at Musikverein and Konzerthaus, Vienna

On 24 April 2016 Wolfram Wagner's composition *verirrt* ('lost') for chorus, piano and four clarinets had its world première in the Golden Hall of Vienna's Musikverein.

'(...) If 100 people are on stage and musically grow together by their common delight in singing, then one can confidently call this love. The Singverein der Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna, founded in 1858, is a society of lovers even in the strict sense of the word – being an amateur choir. Otherwise being specialized in the great works for chorus and orchestra and thus at home in the Golden Hall and internationally the choir now was the "Soloist" on stage, conducted by its own artistic director, Johannes Prinz. It is with him that the choir began its current flourishing 25 years ago: reason enough to celebrate with an exceptional concert. (...) Right in the middle a new composition by Wolfram Wagner: the vocal fantasia *verirrt*. Rhapsodic sound cascades and Orffian activity from the piano (Clemens Zeilinger), clarinets (Vienna Ebony Quartet) smoothly growing from and merging back into the choral sound, rhythmical pithiness and powerful unisons from the voices: ovations both for this maelstrom of emotion and for the entire evening. ('Die Presse', Walter Weidringer, 04.26.2016)

## The RSO Vienna, the tireless allrounders

The Viennese Konzerthausgesellschaft, supported by the Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung commissioned a new orchestral composition by Tomasz Skweres: The world première of "*über das farbige Licht der Doppelsterne ...*", was also met by audience and critical delight:

'(...) There is almost nothing the RSO cannot do – this is how one could summarise the message of the concert programme with which the RSO Vienna ended its current Konzerthaus cycle. (...) There followed – as the RSO's true USP – contemporary music in the stricter sense in the form of an orchestral composition by Tomasz Skweres, who is also a cellist in the orchestra. Skweres knows excellently well how to use the large orchestral forces. The Doppler effect, to whose discoverer the title "*über das farbige Licht der Doppelsterne ...*" ("On the Colourful Light of the Double Stars") refers, is transformed by the composer into glissandos reminiscent of sigh figures. They structure an iridescent sound network, comprehensible large-scale formal processes keep the interest alive. (...) "We still can!", is what Cornelius Meister, as usual highly motivated, and his team seem to want to tell us. And so it was indeed.' (Viennaer Zeitung, Lena Dražić, 13.05.2016)

## Premieres at a glance:

### Rainer BISCHOF

*Todesfuge* after Paul Celan for baritone and four violins. First performance 07.04.2016/ Müzzzuschlag, Kunsthaus; Wolfgang Holzmair – baritone; Maria Fomina, Elisabeth Kropfitsch, David Kropfitsch, David Kropfitsch – violins  
*Sonatensatz für kleines Orchester*. First performance 28.07.2016 / Vienna, Mariahilferkirche; International Orpheus Academy, conductor: Amaury du Closel

### Friedrich CERHA

*Liederzyklus nach Texten von Ilija Jovanović*, for baritone and piano. First performance 20.08.2016/ Salzburg, Mozarteum; Wolfgang Holzmair – baritone, Andreas Frölich – piano

### Christian MUTHSPIEL

*A Serious Game*. Concerto for Violoncello and Chamber Orchestra 2015/2016, based on "Suite I, BWV 1007" by J. S. Bach. First performance 30.06.2016/ Stuttgart; Stuttgarter Kammerorchester, Gautier Capuçon – violoncello, conductor: Christian Muthspiel

### Christian OFENBAUER

*Vergessenes Zimmer / staubiger Raum 2016* for 10 instruments. First performance 02.06.2016/ Salzburg; ensemble des XX. Jahrhunderts, conductor: Peter Burwik

### Tomasz SKWERES

"*über das farbige Licht der Doppelsterne ...*" for orchestra. First performance 12.05.2016/ Vienna, Konzerthaus; RSO Vienna, conductor: Cornelius Meister

### Erich URBANNER

*Viererkette*. Quartet for flute (alto flute), viola, violoncello and piano. First performance 18.04.2016/ Vienna; Alexander Wagendristel – flute, Kaori Nishii – piano, Julia Purgina – viola, Maria Frodl – violoncello

### Wolfram WAGNER

*verirrt* for mixed choir, piano and four clarinets. First performance 24.04.2016/ Vienna, Musikverein; Singverein der Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Wien, Vienna Ebony Quartett, conductor: Johannes Prinz  
*Miserere* for brass trio. First performance 23.10.2016/ Poysdorf; Trio Colore Wien  
*Zwei geistliche Sätze*. First performance 27.11.2016, Vienna, St. Ursula; Chor der mdw Wien, Elke Eckersdorfer – Orgel, Conductor: Ingrid Fussenegger



Fotos: R. Publig/Doblinger (Bischof, Ofenbauer, Urbanner); Anne Kirchbach (Cerha); Berenice Hebenstreit (Muthspiel); Unison Shot (Skweres); W. Wagner (Wagner)