

# CONTEMPORARY MUSIC from Austria

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# CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FROM AUSTRIA

## PUSHING BOUNDARIES TOWARDS NEW HORIZONS

Composers require performers to make their art heard. As trivial as this observation might seem at first, there were not always lots of performers available. In the initial decades following World War II, composers were confronted with a lack of ensembles, something which many composers turned into a virtue by proceeding to establish their own ensemble. This was the case for Friedrich Cerha and *die reihe* (1958), for HK Gruber, Kurt Schwertsik, Otto M. Zykan and the *MOB art & ton art Ensemble* (1968), and for Klaus Ager and the *oesterreichisches ensemble für neue musik* (1975) – just to name a few.

If we look at the calendar of events today, there is a broad range of musical offerings which are all performed not only at exquisite levels, but which also cover all facets of artistic trends in new music and, with that, associated art and musical forms like composition and improvisation, old and new music, and numerous other genres right up to influences from jazz, pop and electronics. Moreover, pure acoustic ensembles get just as much attention as ensembles drawing on various technologies. In these diverse environments, the ensembles succeed at leaving their own respective artistic mark. This is due to the fact that numerous ensembles actively contribute to the emergence of new pieces by commissioning compositions, the unbelievable abilities of their members quite often being referred to as inspiration by the composers. Due to the large number of exceptional ensembles, a selection needed to be made for this brochure. Thus, ensembles are featured whose repertoire is comprised not only of their own compositions, but also of pieces from local contemporary composers. Regular performances in Austria and also abroad are a testament to the international engagement. Information about the ensembles is readily available online and in English. The ensembles are made up of anything from two musicians up, and sometimes in very unusual combinations of instruments. We encourage you to have a look at their profiles and see for yourself.

At this point we would also like to highlight the vast range of activities offered by Austrian Music Export for professional musicians and for those expanding to countries abroad. You will find these under "Service and Information" at www.musicexport.at. At the back of this brochure you will also find important addresses for other ensembles.

While the existence of these numerous ensembles should put to bed any justification for these pieces not being performed, a dire lack of opportunities for contemporary compositions to be heard persists. Undisputed for instance, is that despite an outstanding level of artistry and a to some extent hard-to-surpass international reputation, such ensembles can often only be maintained and developed with tremendous personal effort and idealism. For this reason, we would like to do our part – however small – in contributing to the visibility of the diverse and innovative ensembles in Austria and beyond, and, above all, to increasing their audibility.

# ENSEMBLE PORTRAITS

*Airborne Extended* seems to be a suitable name for the ensemble given that their instruments have an inherent etherical sound quality about them. They range from harp and harpsichord to a selection of ten recorders and four flutes. The ensemble's extremely unusual line-up consisting of Caroline Mayrhofer, Doris Nicoletti, Tina Zerdin and Sonja Leipold is the starting point for a sensitive and nuanced search for unknown tonal combinations. Many of the tones evoke associations to earlier eras. The group's effort to pry the instruments away from their bourgeois context and to use them in a contemporary fashion is a referential experience. The repertoire is comprised mainly of commissioned works, including those from artists such as Bernhard Lang, Alexander Kaiser, and Wolfgang Mitterer. *Website > caroline-mayrhofer.net/neue-musik/airborne-extended* 



(Airborne Extended / Photo © Nevena Tsvetkova)



(Black Page Orchestra / Photo © Igor Ripak)

## BLACK PAGE ORCHESTRA



(Duo Stump-Linshalm / Photo © Viktor Brázdil)

Named after a composition by Frank Zappa, the Black Page Orchestra has emerged as one of the most promising young ensembles in Austria within just a few years. Key to this is its consistent search for radical, uncompromising, and sometimes provocative pieces of new contemporary music. Under the artistic direction of the composer Matthias Kranebitter, the "antidisciplinary" ensemble focuses on pieces from the current generation of young composers. Foregrounded are compositions that - with the help of multimedia enhancements, ambitious lighting, generative programming and much more - react to current technology and interweave widely different artistic practices. In heterogenous soundscapes and multi-sensory experimental arrangements, the ensemble finds an equivalent to the information flood on media and the accelerated pace of our present day. It also enjoys tackling pieces which through their performative character, subvert the typical concert situation. Website > blackpageorchestra.org

### <u>DUO</u> <u>STUMP-</u> <u>LINSHALM</u>

Two clarinet players are an admittedly very small line-up, but this duo's courage and propensity for the eccentric which have inspired numerous composers to compose for them. Among them are big names such as Pierluigi Billone, Beat Furrer and Chaya Czernowin. Petra Stump and Heinz-Peter Linshalm are virtuosic performers who succeed at drawing the maximum out of their instruments. They elicit the most unlikely sounds from different members of the clarinet family and carefully investigate the acoustic potential they hold. Their precise and brilliant playing builds on soft vibrations and minimal shocks, microtonal oscillations and tones. The duo's repertoire comes from both contemporary and classical music which is performed with a tremendous sensibility and in keen technical adeptness. *Website > stump-linshalm.com* 

Founded in 2006, the Ensemble Platypus focuses on pieces from some less well-known younger composers, and in the process pays attention to balance in gender issues. The name "Platypus" comes from the animal and alludes to the unpretentious and often humorous approach the ensemble takes. It strives for low-threshold access and promotes aesthetic and programmatic variety. The ensemble aims to break up the conventional concert format, and has already performed at unusual concert venues, including fitness studios and retirement homes. Regular cooperation with composers like Bernhard Lang, Peter Ablinger, Georg Nussbaumer and Tamara Friebel enriches the ensemble's broad repertoire. Website > platypus.or.at

#### ENSEMBLE PLATYPUS



(Ensemble Platypus / Photo © Igor Ripak)



(Ensemble Reconsil Wien / Photo © Maria Frodl)

### ENSEMBLE RECONSIL WIEN

Since its founding in 2002, the Ensemble Reconsil Wien has amassed a tremendous stylistic range from new music from all over the world and innovative concert cycles of seldomly performed pieces to classics of the 20th century. The fact that the Vienna School's chamber music and ensemble pieces are deemed particularly important is due mainly to the ensemble's close partnership with the Arnold Schönberg Center. Among the numerous premieres which this ensemble has given are pieces from Schönberg, Berg and Webern. In 2016, the composers and musicians Alexander Wagendristel, Maria Frodel, Manuela Kerer, Peter Jakober and Thomas Heinisch collectively assumed the role of artistic direction. Website > ensemblereconsil.com

## KLANGFORUM Wien



(Klangforum Wien / Photo © Judith Schlosser)



(NAMES / Photo © Andreas Hechenberger)

Klangforum Wien enjoys a reputation as the flagship among contemporary music ensembles from Austria. Founded in 1985 by Beat Furrer, who to this day remains associated with the ensemble as a conductor and composer, it has won international acclaim in recent decades The 24-member soloist ensemble has a considerable track record. With premieres of over 500 compositions, the Klangforum Wien is a major proponent of contemporary music. One of its recipes for success is that unlike in other ensembles, it is not the director alone who selects the programme, but also the musicians themselves, represented by a changing team of programmers. Their active involvement in the repertoire choice and their intense understanding of the pieces contribute to the diversity. The ensemble's experience is reflected in their perfect execution of the pieces. Website > klangforum.at



Founded in Salzburg by students from the University Mozarteum, the *New Art and Music Ensemble Salzburg – NAMES* for short – focuses on classical contemporary composers of the 20th century and on premiering works by younger composers. *NAMES* put eras and trends in a reciprocal relationship, thus enabling their recontextualization – a major objective. The repertoire thrives on contrasts and inter-medial productions and is devoted to new music in myriad formations. *NAMES* is an ensemble that experiments and sees itself as a platform for trying out new compositions that approach other forms of musical and artistic expression in an exciting way. In addition to live electronic and performance, the ensemble makes room for dance and the visual arts, and advocates opening strictly drawn borders. Exposure to a variety of approaches and methods enlivens the wide-ranging programme. *Website > names-ensemble.com*  Behind Nimikry are the composer and flutist Alessandro Baticci and the composer, violist and inventor Rafal Zalech. Rather than ignoring classical instruments, the duo attempts to expand their potential, with the help of innovative technologies, utilising them in new ways. Nimikry penetrates the boundaries of contemporary composition, tying in improvisation, experimental electronics and noise. Behind this is the effort to use a broad spectrum of progressive trends. The original instrument is always, however, front and centre in the duo's energetic performances. Inventiveness and the efforts to expand sonorous languages without forgoing classical instrumental performance are proof of the consistent quest for new paths. Website > nimikry.com

#### **NIMIKRY**



(Nimikry / Photo © Svetlana Selezneva)

The oenm (oesterreichisches ensemble für neue musik) has been around for 40 years and established itself as one of the leading ensembles for music of the 20th and 21st centuries. From its home base in Salzburg, it gathers top musicians from eleven countries. The line-up varies from anywhere between one and fifteen musicians. Recently, the ensemble has been exploring new paths under the artistic direction of cellist Peter Sigl. The *oenm* does not shy away from using traditional instruments from different countries, and, in addition to contemporary music, also includes early music and works from the classical and romantic periods in its repertoire. For the oenm, direct interaction with the audience is as important as is dismantling genre boundaries. It also pursues electronic music, musical theatre, installations, workshops and experimental formats like the "jam sessions" they founded. Website > oenm.at

#### <u>OENM</u>



(oenm / Photo © Andreas Hechenberger and Markus Sepperer)

#### **OVOCUTTERS**



(Ovocutters / Photo © Ovocutters)

Not only is the name eccentric but the line-up reflects a bold choice. Behind the Ovocutters duo are the harpsichordist Sonja Leipold and accordionist Christoph Hofer. Two underestimated instruments of different origin and with opposing sound qualities meet: contrapunctal playing from the stubborn and sonorous sound of the accordion meshes with the fragile sounds of the harpsichord. One of the duo's goals is to function as a go-between between new and old music, contemporary literature, and pieces from the baroque and pre-classical periods. Innovative playing techniques and the referential sound aura of the instruments are what make the masterful duo stand out. The sounds themselves in the contemporary context are, for the most part, free of attributions, the possibilities for expression are diverse, and the pieces are seldom played.

Website > ovocutters.at

#### **PHACE**



(Phace / Photo © Laurent Ziegler)

**PHACE** is one of the most renowned ensembles in the country. Founded in 1991 by composer and conductor Simeon Pironkoff (then still as ensemble on\_line) the ensemble courageously tackles both complex pieces and innovative ways of playing and, in the process, moves effortlessly through a variety of styles and disciplines. The focus is on contemporary chamber music and compositions from the classical avantgarde; on music theatre and adventurous interdisciplinary productions that border on dance, theatre, DI culture and visual arts. PHACE is successful at identifying subtle nuances, but also in devoting itself to the full force of sound. The audience is encouraged to increase its awareness. Projects like "rent a musician" are proof of the ensemble's fearlessness and of its openness to adventurous arrangements. Website > phace.at

Founded in 2013 by former students of the Performance Practice in Contemporary Music (PPCM) programme of the Klangforum Wien at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, the Schallfeld Ensemble comprises musicians from eight countries. The repertoire relies primarily on young, aspiring composers, comprising both those known to the ensemble and others yet to be discovered. The repertoire includes chamber music compositions (live electronics are an integral component), collective improvisations, and pieces which highlight gestures and rhythmic elements. The ensemble has also drawn attention to itself with expanded sound settings in which attempts are made to establish a relationship between space and sound. Also offered are pedagogical and participatory projects for children, teens and adults. Website > schallfeldensemble.com

#### SCHALLFELD ENSEMBLE



(Schallfeld Ensemble / Photo © Wolfgang Silveri)

### STRINGS&NOISE

Cellist Maiken Beer and the violinist/ violist Sophia Goidinger-Koch founded the duo strings&noise in 2015. The goal of these musician friends is to free their string instruments from the romantic context and, in doing so, to reflect on stereotypical role models for female musicians. Their concerts are often embellished to include dance, performance and live electronics. In the process, strings&noise are always searching for new sonic possibilities for their instruments and to do so they intermingle classical, contemporary, and improvised music and gladly venture to the limits of what is playable. strings&noise enthral the audiences at their live concerts with their unconventional settings. Website > stringsandnoise.com



(strings&noise / Photo © Julia Wesely)

#### STUDIO DAN



(Studio Dan / Photo © Julia Wesely)

Studio Dan was founded by the trombonist and composer Daniel Riegler in 2005 as part of Vienna's first JazzWerkstatt festival. The name of the 17-member ensemble alludes to Frank Zappa's album "Studio Tan" and is at the same time a nod to its founder. With versatility and innovativeness, the ensemble moves across genres and explores the area of experimental and new music, improvisation and jazz, right up to prog rock. New ideas and concepts and the dedication to experimenting are the constants when dealing with the material. The success the ensemble has enjoyed validates the approach. It was already awarded the German Records Critics' Award and invitations to renowned festivals and performance venues are taking the ensemble on a seemingly endless journey. Website > studiodan.at



(Vierhalbiert / Photo © Julia Wesely)

## **VIERHALBIERT**

The musicians behind *Vierhalbiert* follow the mission of putting old and new music into a sustainable dialog. Originating from the quartet's unusual combination of a violin, baroque violin, cello and baroque cello, a comparison is attempted which encourages the exposure of sound developments and the relationships among the string instruments. Claudia Norz, Anna Tausch, Sofie Thorsbro Dan and Barbara Ricobana facilitate a journey right through the eras and advocate that music is always up to date the moment it is performed. As such, it never loses its clout. The repertoire thrives on its sonic contrasts and diverse soundworlds. *Website > vierhalbiert.com* 

# USEFUL CONTACTS

#### **FESTIVALS**

Ars Electronica, Linz, Upper Austria > aec.at/festival Aspekte Salzburg, Salzburg > aspekte-salzburg.at Bludenzer Tage zeitgemäßer Musik, Bludenz, Vorarlberg > allerart-bludenz.at/btzm Bregenzer Festspiele, Bregenz, Vorarlberg > bregenzerfestspiele.com brückenfestival, Mürzzuschlag, Styria > kunsthausmuerz.at Carinthischer Sommer, Ossiach/Villach, Carinthia > carinthischersommer.at Grafenegg Festival, Grafenegg, Lower Austria > grafenegg.com Hotel Pupik Festival, Scheifling, Styria > hotelpupik.org Imago Dei, Krems, Lower Austria > klangraum.at impuls Festival, Graz, Styria > impuls.cc Interpenetration, Graz, Styria > interpenetration.net Isa musikfestival, Semmering, Lower Austria > isa-music.org Klangspuren, Schwaz, Tyrol > klangspuren.at KomponistInnenforum Mittersill, Mittersill, Salzburg > kofomi.com Music Unlimited, Wels, Upper Austria > waschaecht.at Musik im Riesen, Wattens, Tyrol > kristallwelten.swarovski.com Musikforum Viktring, Klagenfurt, Carinthia > musikforum.at musikprotokoll im Steirischen Herbst, Graz, Styria > musikprotokoll.orf.at New Adits, Klagenfurt, Carinthia > vereinflechtwerk.wordpress.com/new-adits Osterfestival Tirol, Innsbruck/Hall, Tyrol > osterfestival.at Salzburger Festspiele, Salzburg > salzburgerfestspiele.at Ulrichsberger Kaleidophon, Ulrichsberg, Upper Austria > jazzatelier.at unsafe + sounds, Vienna > unsafeandsounds.com V:NM-Festival, Graz, Styria > vnm.mur.at Wien Modern, Vienna > wienmodern.at Wiener Festwochen, Vienna > festwochen.at

#### LABELS

Chmafu nocords, Graz, Styria > nocords.net col legno, Vienna > col-legno.com ein\_klang records, Vienna > einklangrecords.com GODrec, Graz, Styria > godrec.com Gramola, Vienna > gramola.at Kairos, Vienna > kairos-music.com loewenhertz, Vienna > loewenhertz.at Paladino Music, Vienna > paladino.at

#### INDEPENDENT MUSIC THEATER GROUPS

Musiktheater Wien > musiktheater-wien.at Musiktheatertage Wien > musiktheatertagewien.com Musikwerkstatt Wien > musikwerkstatt-wien.com Mupath > samu.nologic.de/mupath.html Netzzeit > netzzeit.at Neue Oper Wien > neueoperwien.at Neues Wiener Musiktheater > neueswienermusiktheater.org Pandoras Box > petragiacalone.com/pandoras-box oper unterwegs > oper-unterwegs.at progetto semiserio > progettosemiserio.at Schlüterwerke > schlüterwerke.at sirene Operntheater > sirene.at Wiener Taschenoper > taschenoper.at

#### PUBLISHING HOUSES

Apoll-Edition > apoll-edition.com Ariadne Mausikverlag > ariadne-verlag.com Edition 7 > edition7.at Musikverlag Alexander Mayer > mvam.at Musikverlag Doblinger > doblinger-musikverlag.at Universaledition Wien > universaledition.com Zeitvertrieb Wien Berlin > zeitvertrieb.mur.at

#### **NETWORKS & ORGANIZATIONS**

Ambitus - Gruppe für Neue Musik, Wien > ambitus.at IG Komponisten Salzburg, Salzburg > ig-komponisten.at Internationale Gesellschaft für Neue Musik (IGNM), Vienna > ignm.at Interessengemeinschaft Niederösterreichische KomponistInnen (INÖK), Vienna > inoek.at Komponisten und Interpreten im Burgenland (KIBu), Oberschützen, Burgenland > kibu.net Komponistenbund Neue Musik in Tirol, Innsbruck, Tyrol > kraftfeld-tirol.com Musikfabrik Niederösterreich, Tulln, Lower Austria > musikfabrik.at mica - music austria, Vienna > musicaustria.at Oberösterreichischer KomponistInnenbund (OÖKB), Linz, Upper Austria > ooekomponisten.at Österreichische Gesellschaft für zeitgenössische Musik (ÖGZM), Vienna > oegzm.at Österreichischer Komponistenbund (ÖKB), Vienna > komponistenbund.at SNIM, Vienna > snim.klingt.org Verein Platypus, Vienna > platypus.or.at Verein zur Förderung und Verbreitung Neuer Musik, Graz, Styria > vnm.mur.at

#### **MEDIA & BROADCASTING**

Ö1 – Zeitton > oe1.orf.at/zeitton Falter > falter.at Freistil > freistil.klingt.org mica – music austria > musicaustria.at ORF III > orf.at/program/orf3 Skug > skug.at Verband Freie Radios Österreich > freie-radios.at

#### **PROMOTERS & VENUES**

Alte Schmiede, Vienna > alte-schmiede.at Amann Studios, Vienna > amannstudios.com ARGEkultur Salzurg, Salzburg > argekultur.at Arnold Schönberg Center, Vienna > schoenberg.at Brick-5, Vienna > brick-5.at Echoraum. Vienna > echoraum.at ESC – Medien Kunst Labor > esc.mur.at Forum Stadtpark, Graz, Styria > forumstadtpark.at iftaf - institute for transacoustic research, Vienna > iftaf.org imPavillon, Wels, Upper Austria > impavillon.at Klangraum Krems, Krems, Lower Austria > klangraum.at Kulturzentrum bei den Minoriten, Graz, Styria > kultum.at music+, Hall in Tirol, Tyrol > musikplus.at Musikverein Wien, Vienna > musikverein.at Neue Musik in St. Ruprecht, Vienna > nmr.klingt.org **Open Music,** Graz, Styria > **openmusic.at** Porgy & Bess - Strenge Kammer, Vienna > porgy.at RadioKulturhaus, Vienna > radiokulturhaus.orf.at Reaktor. Vienna > reaktor.art Wiener Konzerthaus, Vienna > konzerthaus.at

#### **ENSEMBLE WEBSITES**

airborne extended > caroline-mayrhofer.net/neue-musik/airborne-extended Akademie St. Blasius > akademie-st-blasius.at Black Page Orchestra > blackpageorchestra.org Chromoson > chromoson.cc die reihe > diereihe.at Duo Enssle-Lamprecht > enssle-lamprecht.com Duo Stump-Linshalm > stump-linshalm.com Duo Ovocutters > ovocutters.at Duo Siedl/Cao > siedlcao.com Ensemble EIS > herndler.net/eis.html Ensemble Kontrapunkte > kontrapunkte.at ensemble LUX > ensemblelux.at Ensemble Platypus > platypus.or.at ensemble plus > ensembleplus.at ensemble reconsil wien > ensemblereconsil.com Ensemble Wiener Collage > ewc.at ensemble xx. jahrhundert > exxj.com Ensemble Zeitfluss > ensemble-zeitfluss.com Fraufeld > fraufeld.at Klangforum Wien > klangforum.at Koehne Quartett > koehnequartet.com Mobilis Saxophon Quartett > mobilis-saxophonguartett.at NAMES (New Arts and Music Ensemble Salzburg) > names-ensemble.com Nimikry > nimikry.com oesterreichisches ensemble für neue musik (oenm) > oenm.at PHACE > phace.at Schallfeld Ensemble > schallfeldensemble.com strings&noise > stringsandnoise.com Studio Dan > studiodan.at Studio Percussion Graz > studiopercussion.com szene instrumental > szene-instrumental.com Tiroler Ensemble für Neue Musik (TENM) > tenm.at Tiroler Kammerorchester Innstrumenti > innstrumenti.at/Orchester Trio Frühstück > triofruehstueck.com Vierhalbiert > vierhalbiert.com Windkraft - Kapelle für Neue Musik > windkraftmusic.com Wiener Concert-Verein > wiener-concertverein.at

Further ensembles and information > db.musicaustria.at/en/search-band-ensemble

# **ABOUT US**

#### AUSTRIAN MUSIC EXPORT



Austrian Music Export is a joint initiative of mica – music austria and the Austrian Music Fund. The aim of Austrian Music Export is to be a service and resource center for exporters of contemporary Austrian music in all genres and aspects (recordings, live, synch, etc.). This includes providing access to information on Austrian artists and companies, building a substantial network of industry professionals and media, providing travel support and representing Austrian music at international trade shows, conferences and festivals. Austrian Music Export promotes international showcases of local artists and develops measures to strengthen international exploitation of Austrian repertoire by acting as a catalyst for export-oriented Austrian labels, agencies and artists.

Website > musicexport.at

#### MICA - MUSIC AUSTRIA

music austria

*mica – music austria* is the professional partner for musicians in Austria. Founded in 1994 as an independent, non-profit association, on the initiative of the Republic of Austria, the primary goals of *mica – music austria* are to provide information on the Austrian music scene, to support Austriabased musicians with advice and information, to promote local music at home and abroad, and to improve the conditions for music productions in Austria.

Website > musicaustria.at

#### ÖSTERREICHISCHER MUSIKFONDS

**ÖST.MUSIK**FONDS

The *Austrian Music Fund* is an initiative that aims to promote and fund professional Austrian music production in order to increase awareness of it and facilitate its distribution, thereby strengthening the reputation of Austria as a location for creativity.

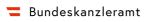
Website > musikfonds.at

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