



STEGREIF.orchester Biography

It is the ambition of the STEGREIF.orchester (artistic director Juri de Marco) to demonstrate how a contemporary orchestra can work in today's context: musicians from different musical backgrounds play without sheet music, without a conductor, moving freely through the performance space and improvising on symphonic music by means of innovative arrangements. Their radical recompositions seek to present the cherished heritage of classical music in a forward-thinking manner and expand it with contemporary trends. Musical spontaneity and choreographic elements offer a new kind of concert experience to the audience, who are also free to move around the room. With these innovative concert formats, the orchestra reaches a growing audience of different ages and target groups.

Since the orchestra was founded in 2015, at least one new concert programme has been developed each year (#freeBeethoven, #freeschubert, #freebrahms, TRIKESTRA, Giovanni. A Passion, #freeBorncica, #bfree). The orchestra has toured throughout Germany, including renowned such stages as the Konzerthaus Berlin, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Alte Oper Frankfurt, and Prinzregententheater Munich, and also alternative festivals such as the FUSION Festival, Detect Classic Festival, and Oranjewoud Festival (NL).

In addition to the ensemble's own composers, Juri de Marco, Alistair Duncan, and Bertram Burkert, Stegreif has commissioned works and arrangements from Uri Caine, Michael Conrad, and Wolf Kerschek and worked with the directors Theresa von Halle, Ela Baumann, and Ulrike Schwab. Improvisation is at the centre of all recompositions, but the influence from different musical traditions from jazz to folk song and Arabic music to techno is an important component.

In addition, STEGREIF has developed structured music education concepts. The orchestra regularly holds workshops and children's concerts, and has developed several joint concert programmes with amateurs or young people, e.g. #Carmen with the Weimar City Strings or BE:community with the Konzerthaus Dortmund, and last but not least, PLURAL, its own digital education series. Stegreif has also been involved in a number of other projects, including a charity concert for refugees in Berlin's Gedächtniskirche as part of "Berlin steht auf" (Berlin stands up) and a small line-up of various climate demonstrations.

The STEGREIF.orchester has been awarded the following prizes: Startup Music Prize Berlin 2016, "D-Bü" Competition Students of German Music Academies 2017 (topic: Future of the Concert Format), Würth Prize 2018 of the Jeunesses Musicales Foundation, Fellowship in the #beethoven Program of the PODIUM Festival Esslingen 2018-2020, European Trend Brand of the Year 2019 at the 14th European Cultural Brand Award.

STEGREIF.ORCHESTER

The Improvising Symphony Orchestra

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