

STEGREIF - THE IMPROVISING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA // PROJECTS SEASON 24-25

Availability upon request

STEGREIF - The Improvising Symphony Orchestra is an international group of 30 young, versatile musicians of various musical origins. What makes the ensemble unique is the way they create new paths for both, themselves and the audience, to approach classical music. Expanded by folklore, jazz, klezmer, blues and rock, STEGREIF creates innovative, musically and visually powerful reinterpretations of well-known repertoire. STEGREIF explores new worlds of sound and is constantly trying to bend the boundaries between musical genres.

The ensemble always performs without sheet music, without a conductor and without chairs. The resulting freedom creates space for improvisation and movement. The concert hall, the auditorium, the ranks, everything becomes a stage, giving the audience a unique concert experience.

#FREESOLO

Redefinition of the solo concerto,
based on works by Bach, Mozart, Dvorak and Bartok

Artistic direction: Juri de Marco and Lorenz Blaumer // Composer in Residence: Noam Sivan

How can leadership be lived today - musically as well as socially, in order to find a good balance between pretending and listening in the tension between autocracy and democracy?

To explore this question, the orchestra refers to an entire genre - the solo concerto - and develops a contemporary, collaborative form. Concerto comes from the Latin word "concertare," which means competition. At the same time interaction is always essential for an orchestral work. Therefore, this genre can be used to demonstrate the relationship between competition and collaboration, between person-centered and communal structures. The program #Freesolo tells in four movements the evolution of social and political structures.

Different musicians of the Stegreif Orchester shine also as soloists.

Cast: 26 instrumentalists
Duration: 70 min

#FREEBRUCKNER

200 years of Bruckner: recomposition of Anton Bruckner's 7th Symphony in E major, a work commissioned by the International Brucknerfest Linz

Artistic direction: Juri de Marco, Lorenz Blaumer // Recomposition: N.N

How would a contemporary Bruckner have interpreted the themes of his symphony on the organ today?

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Anton Bruckner's birth, the ensemble develops a cross-genre recomposition with the great symphonist of the Romantic era. During his lifetime, Bruckner was famous for his great symphonies, but also for his art of improvisation on the organ. STEGREIF will combine these two elements and present the symphony with improvisational freedom and chamber-music lightness. 30 musicians will expand the sound with saxophone, drumset, electric guitar and the use of their own voices.

**Cast: 32 instrumentalists
Duration: 70 min**

#SYMPHONY OF CHANGE

Final production of the project #bechange - 17 sounds of sustainability of Stegreif - The Improvising Symphony Orchestra

Artistic Director: Juri de Marco and Lorenz Blaumer // direction & choreography: David Fernandez // Recomposition/Arrangement: Nina Kazourian, Tabea Schrenk, Julia Bilat, Helena Weinstock-Montag, Franziska Aller

The *symphony of change* is an encouragement to all curious people, a breath of confidence in a world in disarray. Above all, it is a musical invitation to get involved and to think, feel and create something new. It asks for change in each and every one of us and invites musicians and audience to give space to their perspective on relevant questions of our time. Loud and quiet voices resound with each other in an open discussion of hope, guilt and responsibility in the face of the global ecological crisis.

Recomposition, sound performance and improvisation based on works of Hildegard von Bingen, Wilhelmine von Bayreuth, Emilie Mayer and Clara Schumann.

**Cast: 26 instrumentalists
Duration: 75 min**

#FREEBRAHMS

A RECOMPOSITION OF JOHANNES BRAHMS 3RD SYMPHONY

Artistic Director: Juri de Marco // Recomposition: Alistair Duncan // Arrangement: Wolf Kerschek // Musical Director: Sebastian Caspar // direction & choreography: Ela Baumann und Viola Schmitzer

The starting point for the recomposition of Brahms' 3rd Symphony is one's own voice - metaphorically and literally, because #freebrahms begins and ends with singing. In four 15-minute movements, with sounds ranging from rock and Balkan music, meditative pads and ballads to salsa rhythms, the symphony is unleashed with the addition of electric guitar, drumset and saxophone.

**Cast: 26 instrumentalists
Duration: 75 min**

#IMPROPHONIE

A SYMPHONY OF THE MOMENT

Artistic Director: Juri de Marco, Lorenz Blaumer // Recomposition, Musical Director: Lea Hladka // direction & choreography: Anja Kreher

How can music be created in the moment and in contact with the audience? Where do improvisation and composition meet? Can even an entire symphony be improvised?

Groove - movement - eye contact. The aim of #improphonie is to capture the magic of collective, free improvisation in its spontaneity and to give it a space as an independent work. The individual strengths of the musicians become the driving energy and communication.

Like a classical symphony, #improphonie consists of 4 movements in which different musical elements are introduced and worked on. The first three movements deal with the aspects of melody, harmony and rhythm. These are examined from different angles, collectively and individually by the orchestra. While the first movement plays with the contrast between individual melody voices and full orchestral sound, the second movement focuses on melody and solo as well as harmony and sound surface. In the third movement, the orchestra comes together through rhythms, energy and movement. The concluding fourth movement does not follow a fixed form, so that it can be completely reshaped at the concert. Unlike in a classical symphony, there are no pauses between the movements, but sung choruses that atmospherically shape the transitions.

Cast: 15 - 24 instrumentalists
Duration: 70 min

#EXPLORE_HÄNDEL

A JAZZ-BAROQUE-FUSION BASED ON G. F. HÄNDEL'S WORKS

Artistic Director: Lorenz Blaumer // Recomposition, Arrangement & Musical Direction: Alistair Duncan

#EXPLORE_HÄNDEL combines improvisation elements from jazz and baroque to provide a modern, musical view of Händel's works - from the traditional Concerto Grosso in G minor (Op. 6 No. 6, HWV 324: III), to the famous Rinaldo aria Lascia ch'io pianga (HWV 7), to Händel's oratorio Israel in Egypt (HWV 54). Under the musical direction of Alistair Duncan, a concert program consisting of recompositions of well-known arias from Händel's opus for 11 instrumentalists with different approaches to baroque music and the art of improvisation will be created.

Cast: 11 instrumentalists
Duration: 70 min

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