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Release

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René Wohlhauser (*1954)

The Marakra Cycle

for soprano, baritone and chamber ensemble,
to sound poems by the composer

mira schinak · 'Srang · Sokrak · Iguur – Blay – Luup
Charyptin · Marakra Code Ø · Marakra Code 2

Ensemble Polysono

NEOS 11308 (1 CD)

release: April 2013

total time: 79:52



RENÉ WOHLHAUSER is an unusual artist: composer, pianist, baritone, conductor, born in 1954, grew up in Brienz/Switzerland. Experiences as a rock and jazz musician, lied accompanist and improviser. Educated at the Music Academy in Basle, studying with Robert Suter, Jacques Wildberger and Thomas Kessler, also attending composition courses with Kazimierz Serocki, Mauricio Kagel, Herbert Brün and Heinz Holliger. There followed studies in composition with Klaus Huber and Brian Ferneyhough, further piano studies with Stéphane Reymond and vocal studies with David Wohllich and Robert Koller. In 2004 the world premiere of the opera Gantenbein was given at the Lucerne Theatre. During the past years Wohlhauser has repeatedly undertaken tours in Europe as pianist, singer and conductor with the Simolka-Wohlhauser Duo and his own "Ensemble Polysono". He was a guest lecturer for composition at the Inter-national Summer Courses in Darmstadt (1988–94), at the Festival in Odessa (1996–98), and at the International Composers' Atelier in Lugano (2000).

A composer deeply committed in the area of cultural politics, he teaches composition, music theory and improvisation at the Basle Music Academy (and until 1991 at the Lucerne Academy) and at the SAMP/Kalaidos Music Academy.

His conviction: No one can know everything. Our knowledge in its fragmentary constellation characterises our attitude to life and our points of view, which often behave contrarily to the points of view of other people with a different fragmentary experience of life. Human behaviour as a consequence of fragments of fallen knowledge.

What does this mean, then, in terms of composition? Creating complex microstructures, working with fragments from a fragmentary world that coalesce to form new sonic conglomerates that perhaps open up new experiences and points of view to the public.

