

Press release

The Ensemble Polysono, dedicated to the performance, both at home and abroad, of sophisticated contemporary music with a strong Swiss accent, presents a new program which deals with the existential theme of human existence in many different musical ways. Even the title of the tour program, „Sound in Time and Space“, has philosophical connotations. Music as a means of shaping time in a soundscape. Music as a brief moment in which the transience of time seems to be suspended through the presence of sound.

Also, the title of René Wohlhauser's work, „Die Auflösung der Zeit in Raum“ ("The Dissolution of Time in Space"), alludes to the audience's feeling of being removed from temporality in the best moments of musical interpretation, in which everything seems to dissolve into the soundscape. A piece that works deliberately with the temporal dimension of music.

„Djamila Boupachà“ by Luigi Nono, taken from his large-scale work „Canti di Vita e d'Amore“ with the subtitle „Sul ponte di Hiroshima“, is an outcry against the horrors of war. Iannis Xenakis, a composer who himself experienced the horrors of the Second World War as a Greek resistance fighter (and lost an eye in the process), called his composition „Kottos“, the name of one of the three hundred-handed giants whom Zeus fought and conquered, and thus alludes to „the fury and the virtuosity that its performance demands“. The dark and unfathomable is also evoked in „Invocation III“ by Beat Furrer, which refers to an anonymous 16th century text. Further relevant aspects of contemporary composition are addressed in the closing works by Ursula Seiler Kombaratov and René Wohlhauser, both of which are being performed as world premieres.

The stylistically diverse program will be commented by short oral introductions of the works, which should make the program easily accessible, even to an audience unfamiliar with contemporary music.

This highly varied program is interpreted by the Ensemble Polysono Basel, which has been praised by the press with accolades such as "exquisite" (Der Bund, 15.01.08) and „subtle and unblemished“ (Mittelland-Zeitung, 16.01.08) and whose concerts have been recorded by Swiss Radio DRS 2 and the Bayerischen Rundfunk.

The Ensemble Polysono is a variable chamber music ensemble, performing mainly contemporary music, also in combination with other artforms such as literature and painting. Of particular importance is the performance of music for smaller and less common ensembles, exploring their subtle possibilities. The variety in combinations - from solos to duos up to full ensemble - correlates to the structural contrasts and stylistic openness of the programs, which draws its tension from a dialectical dispute between different aesthetic positions.

The programs include world premieres as well as repeat performances of seldom-performed works. Composers of different origins are presented in comparison, showing the different structural aspects of each chosen individual scoring.