

## Kandinsky Quartet

### **Georg Friedrich Haas** Streichquartett No. 10 (2016)

"15 years ago I composed my third string quartet, "in iij noct," which requires performance in complete darkness.

It seemed to be a risky, dangerous experiment to write a piece with a 45 minute minimum duration, which has to be memorized and performed without any visual cues or communication. But it worked. Quite a few talented ensembles performed it. And they enjoyed the experience.

I did not dare to compose the formal structures and developments in that string quartet. I simply presented raw, aural materials and asked the performers to be free to play with the structure: of course the piece morphs with each performance.

In the meantime I had several experiences with compositions performed in in darkness. I decided to write another quartet for darkness: my 9th string quartet. However, this time, the form is strictly composed. The musical elements and the process by which these are woven together is clearly denoted.

And then a composer's dream became reality: This string quartet was slated to be performed within one week by 2 great quartets: JACK and Arditti.

I was excited by this wonderful proposition – until I started to write the piece. To work on the details. Composing for darkness is fundamentally different from traditional composing: You do not directly score the piece– you compose a process for individuals, forced to perform in isolation, having only aural contact with their partners.

Arditti and JACK are comprised of different individuals, and I suddenly realised I wanted to honor their differences and write for each of their strengths.

Although I am chronically running on the edge of deadlines and am under immense pressure to complete works in time, I knew I had to write two different string quartets. The 9th string quartet is written for JACK Quartet.

My 10th string quartet is an homage to the Arditti. "

(Georg Friedrich Haas/Mollena Lee Williams-Haas, September 2016)

[ricordi.com/de-DE/Composers/H/Haas-Georg-Friedrich.aspx](http://ricordi.com/de-DE/Composers/H/Haas-Georg-Friedrich.aspx)

### **Clara Iannotta** A Failed Entertainment (2013)

"Last October, I was on a four-day train trip from San Francisco to New York when I started reading "Infinite Jest" by David Foster Wallace.

Over the last year, I have been looking for a way — my personal way — to deal with form and time, and this book helped me, giving me a new, different perspective on them. I am not saying that my piece is related to "Infinite Jest" — although "A Failed Entertainment" was Wallace's working title for his novel — but that this was the impulse which led me here, a starting point for a search that will probably take me several years.

I am used to working with different kinds of sound, melting them together in order to find a unique shape. What challenged me in this piece was precisely the fact that I could not work

as I always do, because I had four instruments with the same sound properties. "A Failed Entertainment" is my longest work as well as my first attempt at working beyond the sound itself.

I am grateful to Julia Gerlach and the Berliner Künstlerprogramm des DAAD for supporting the project, and to the musicians of Quatuor Diotima, for their commitment. "

(Clara Iannotta)

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