

Trio Sun-Weiss-Fussenegger

"From a very refined harmonic ear, **Oscar Bianchi** has the very modern ability to dramatize musical forms through mastery of texture, in its thousand details." (Jean-Luc Plouvier). Even in his instrumental work, a vocal quality can strike us as a prominent feature of his music. Exuberant and intelligent, this vocal dimension plays with a refined art of accentuations in all its intermediate degrees. At its core, Bianchi's music continues to be guided by the challenge of dramaturgical and formal issues. The unexpected contrasts between voluble virtuosity and contemplative stasis are the driving force of his flair for dramatic gestures. His music is joyfully violent in breath and song but may suddenly come to rest in prayer, via a specific harmony, as though struck by the noonday light.

Thanks to *My Eyes*, his first opera commissioned by the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence with libretto and staging by Joel Pommerat received critical acclaim by audiences and critics alike ("A masterly portrait of Melancholy," *Le Monde*, July 7, 2011). His music is performed by prestigious ensembles and orchestras such as the Gewandhaus Leipzig, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Deutsche Symphonie Orchester, Ensemble Modern, Klangforum, London Symphonietta, Ictus, Les Percussions de Strasbourg, ICE, Remix, Ensemble Contrechamps, JACK, Diotima, Asko-Schonberg, Collegium Novum Zürich. After studying at Milan Conservatory, he fostered his education at IRCAM in Paris and Columbia University in New York. He's been an artist in residence at the DAAD Künstlerprogramm Berlin and Pro-Helvetia Warsaw and Johannesburg.

Upcoming projects include new works for the Lucerne Festival, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Musikfabrik, Accroche Note, and Ensemble Modern. Oscar Bianchi has been awarded numerous prizes, such as the Gaudeamus first Prize, the Grand Prix de la SACEM, the International Rostrum of composer's prize, and the German Record Critics' Award.

oscarbianchi.com

Yair Klartag (*1985 in Israel) studied composition at the Tel-Aviv University, the Basel University of Music and at Columbia University with Ruben Seroussi and Georg Friedrich Haas. He currently lives in Tel Aviv. In his music he combines a subjective investigation of the semantics of sound with a sensual exploration of sound phenomena. He often deals with the problematic nature of sounds as carrier of meaning and questions the authenticity of musical expression. He is particularly interested in the perception of continuous sound occurrences. The idea that a listener is not able to follow a continuous sound, but rather scans it periodically, characterizes musical structures in which fast, regular repetitions mark slow changes in various sound parameters.

yairklartag.com

Nadir Vassena was born in Lugano (Switzerland). He studied composition in Milan under Bruno Zanolani and in Freiburg im Breisgau under Johannes Schöllhorn. He has received numerous invitations to renowned festivals for new music and came away with many accolades, examples include the competition organised by the "Westdeutschen Rundfunk" (West German Radio) in Cologne 1992, the Music Institute of the "Hochschule der Künste" (School of Arts) in Berlin 1994 (first prize ex aequo), and the Mozart Competition in Salzburg 1997, he was also awarded the Christoph-Delz Foundation Prize. Nadir Vassena was a scholar of the "Akademie Schloss Solitude" in Stuttgart in 2000/2001, of the "Denkmalschmiede Höfgen/Margarethen Foundation" in 2002, and a member of the Swiss Institute in Rome 2002/2003. He lectures in composition and analysis at the 'Conservatorio della Svizzera italiana'. Nadir Vassena, together with Mats Scheidegger, was (2004-2012) director of the "Tage für Neue Musik Zürich". Nomination for the Swiss Music Prize 2015.

nadirvassena.ch

The Basel-based composer and video artist **Jannik Giger** completed a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Media Art at the Bern University of the Arts with Daniel Weissberg and Michael Harenberg as well as a Master of Arts in Composition at the Lucerne University of Music with Dieter Ammann. In 2015 he completed his Master of Arts in Specialized Music Performance (Composition) at the Basel Conservatory with Michel Roth and Erik Ona.

With his compositions and video works, he is active both in contemporary music as well as in the context of fine arts. The questioning of media and art productions can be found throughout his entire work and is clearly visible in art genre-crossing pieces. A central focus of his work lies on the engagement with staging rituals in the art and music business. Video and sound as forms of transformation-, interference- and communication processes are integral parts of his artistic work. Recurring themes of his work are hierarchical relationships and interactions between author, interpreter, and the piece itself. Jannik Giger's compositional signature is characterized by the organic integration of foreign material into his own sound language. He lets tonal and harmonic sounds shimmer through, but cleverly complements and surrounds them with microtonal discolorations and leaves room for the various sound worlds to unfold, to collide lustfully and finally to grow together anew.

Jannik Giger's works are internationally received in the context of music, film and art. For example, at the Wigmore Hall London, as part of the Ultraschall Berlin Festival, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Swiss Art Awards, the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing, the Theater Basel, the Bern Music Festival or the Gare Du Nord in Basel. His compositions are performed by a wide variety of formations. These include the soloist ensemble Kaleidoscope Berlin, the Arditti Quartet, the Ensemble Mosaik, the Mondrian Ensemble Basel, Sarah Maria Sun & Nina Janssen-Deinzer, the Trio Rafale, the Ensemble Phoenix and the Basel Sinfonietta. Jannik Giger has won several prizes and awards, including studio scholarships in London (Foundation Landis & Gyr), Berlin (Atelier Mondial), Sri Lanka (Swiss Cultural Foundation Pro Helvetia) or contributions from the Fondation Nicati-de Luze, from the Swiss Cultural Foundation Pro Helvetia, from Kulturelles BS / BL, the Canton of Solothurn, the UBS Cultural Foundation, the Lions Club Basel as well as 2013 the promotional award for music of the Canton Solothurn.

jannikgiger.ch