

ECHO:CHAMBER

Improvisation in the echoes of the 20th century

Making the past audible in the present –

In echo:chamber, Stegreif focuses on three chamber music works from the 20th century – works that reflect the political upheavals, hopes, and ruptures of that period in musical form. From National Socialism, war, and dictatorship, to mourning, new beginnings, and reconstruction, to the tensions of the Cold War. Richard Strauss' *Metamorphosen* for string septet (1945) is a deeply moving reflection on the cultural and human loss after the Second World War. György Ligeti's *Six Bagatelles* (1953) reflect the turmoil and censorship of the post-war period in short, intense movements. Finally, Alfred Schnittke's *Stille Musik* (Silent Music, 1979), reduced to two voices, leaves room for the unsaid – and the inaudible.

But the concert does not remain stuck in the past: in typical Stegreif fashion, the works are juxtaposed with improvisations – soundscapes that develop spontaneously from the here and now. They take up the themes of the pieces, interweaving past and present and creating an immediate emotional experience that goes beyond pure interpretation – as a sonic commentary on contemporary history, but also on the world we live in today. A concert between memory and the present. Between structure and freedom. Between silence and departure.



Premiere: Sept 2026

Artistic Direction: Lorenz Blaumer

Concept & arrangement: Helena Montag, Sebastian Caspar, Valerie Leopold

Duration: approx. 60 minutes without intermission

Participants (15 people in total):

12 musicians: (string septet and wind quintet)

2-4 team members: scenography, lighting design, tour management

Space requirements and equipment:

This program is designed for an unseated space in which the musicians and audience can move freely. Several stage platforms, some equipped with wheels, are distributed throughout the room as interchangeable performance areas, along with some stage design elements.

The room concept is adapted to each venue to take into account the local conditions.

The room concept can be adapted to halls with fixed seating and stage situations.

Minimum hall size approx. 150 sqm

Excerpt from the required technology:

- Stage platforms of varying heights, some on wheels if necessary
- Adequate lighting equipment appropriate to the space, e.g.
- Stegreif normally performs without amplification. If the acoustics of a particular space require amplification, clip microphones and radio links will be needed by arrangement.



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