

FREEBACH [AT]

Recomposition of J.S. Bachs The Musical Offering

Tba | Premiere planned for Spring 2028



With FREEBACH, the Stegreif Orchester takes one of Johann Sebastian Bach's most enigmatic works as its starting point and brings it into the present day.

Bach's *Musical Offering* arose from a musical improvisation experiment. Its artfully intertwined canons and the famous *Ricercar a 6* follow geometric principles of reflection, symmetry, enlargement and reduction. In FREEBACH, these structures become the raw material for something radically new: together with Alistair Duncan and other internationally renowned composers, the Stegreif Orchester is developing a contemporary re-composition that blends composition, improvisation and movement.

Yet the music does not remain confined to the stage. The orchestra itself becomes a choreographic body. Musicians change their positions, create spaces, mirror movements and transform musical structures into forms that can be seen and physically experienced. The interplay of sound, movement and space gives rise to a living architecture that constantly reshapes itself in the moment.

Premiere: planned for spring 2028

Artistic direction: Lorenz Blaumer

Recomposition: Alistair Duncan, u.a.

Szenography & Choreography: Juan Cruz Diaz de Garaio Esnaola

Duration: ca. 75 Minutes, no intermission

Participants (20 people in total):

16 musicians: Strings: 2/2/2/2/1 + amplifier, 2 woodwinds, 2 brass, Drums, E-Guitar + Amplifier -
4 Staff: production management, production assistant, stage director, light designer

JUAN KRUIZ DIAZ DE GARAIO ESNAOLA – CHOREOGRAPHY & SET DESIGN

Juan Kruz Diaz de Garaio Esnaola studied early music as a countertenor in Amsterdam. Since 1996, he has worked closely with Sasha Waltz & Guests as a dancer, performer, choreographer and musical director. In his work, he combines music, dance and performance. As a choreographer and director, he brings together his musical and dance backgrounds and has realised successful productions in collaboration with musicians, including Midori Seiler and the Geneva Camerata. Juan Kruz Diaz de Garaio Esnaola teaches, regularly gives workshops and masterclasses around the world, and is a visiting professor at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen.

ALISTAIR DUNCAN – COMPOSITION

Alistair Duncan studied trombone, jazz and contemporary music at the Eastman School of Music under Mark Kellogg from 2009 to 2013, and from 2014 onwards studied composition under John Hollenbeck and trombone under Geoffroy de Masure at the Jazz Institut Berlin. Alongside his wide-ranging artistic activities, he is a lecturer in jazz trombone at the Munich University of Music and Performing Arts and regularly composes for Stegreif, most recently 'freebruckner' <https://www.alistair-duncan.com/>



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