

FREEBRUCKNER

*Recomposition of Anton Bruckner's 7th Symphony in E major |
A work commissioned by the International Brucknerfest Linz*

[LINK TO TRAILER VIDEO](#) | [LINK TO WEBSITE](#)

In freebruckner, Stegreif seeks to engage with this great symphonist of the Romantic period and is working on a genre-spanning recomposition of his 7th Symphony. Today, Bruckner is primarily known as a composer of great symphonies in the concert repertoire, but during his lifetime he was also famous for his art of improvisation on the organ. Stegreif, whose passion is the combination of symphonic music and improvisation, will combine these two elements typical of Bruckner and present the symphony with improvisational freedom and chamber music lightness, taking the famous funeral music of the central Adagio as an opportunity to constructively deal with the many social experiences of loss of our time.

The 30 or so musicians expand the sound of the symphonic orchestra to include saxophone, drumset, electric guitar and the use of their own voices. In the here and now, moving freely in space, by heart and without a conductor, a performance is created that breaks down the boundaries between participants and visitors, between composition and improvisation. Let's imagine how a contemporary Bruckner would have interpreted the themes of his symphony on the organ today ...



Foto: Patrick Hürlimann

Stegreif

THE IMPROVISING
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Premiere: 8th of September 2024

Artistic lead: Lorenz Blaumer

Re-composition/arrangement: Alistair Duncan

Scenography: Franziska Ritter

Lighting design: Vito Walter

freebruckner was commissioned by and in collaboration with the Brucknerhaus Linz and is founded by the Rudolf Augstein Foundation.



Press:

"A Bruckner symphony in an interactive format: one of the most goosebump-inducing moments of the evening and pure magic. Rarely do you experience the urgency and exceptional character of this music first-hand in such a way as was the case here." *Oberösterreichisches Volksblatt*, 09.09.2024

"A trademark of Stegreif [...] is the convincing movement choreography, in which there is also room for exuberant joy in music-making and improvisation. The end of a Bruckner symphony sequence is usually followed by moments of silence. The applause virtually exploded for the impromptu performance." *Luzerner Zeitung*, 12.09.2024

Duration: approx. 85 min (without intermission)

Participants (30 people in total):

- 26 musicians: 1.1.1.1.sax - 2.1.1.0 - timp, drums, electric guitar + amplifier - str: 4/3/3/3/1+amplifier
- 4 Staff: production management, production assistant, stage director, light designer

Space requirements and equipment

The orchestra plays without music stands and without a conductor. Most of the concert takes place on stage. Some interludes and individual sections will be performed in the audience area, passing through the auditorium.

The central stage element is a 10-meter-long table with a depth of 1 meter and a height of 0.80 meters. In addition, there are 30 chairs, which are placed at the sides of the stage at the beginning, moved to the table during the course of the piece, and then scattered on the floor. Some of the musicians will stand on the chairs (without shoes), so it is important that the chairs do not have armrests and are stable. The playing area itself measures approximately 20x10 meters, and the "clear" distance from all stage elements to the audience should be approximately 3 meters.

Excerpt of required technology

- 30 chairs without armrests
- A 10-meter-long "table" consisting of 5 Bütec elements
- 2 roll risers 2 m x 2 m, each consisting of two Bütec elements measuring 2 m x 1 m
- Lighting requirements tbc; varies depending on venue
- 1 hazer

Stegreif normally plays unamplified. If the room acoustics require amplification, clip microphones and radio links will be needed by arrangement. Full tech rider available on request.

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