

FREEMAHLER

What the earth tells us

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More than a hundred years ago, Gustav Mahler vividly described the beauty of nature through his music – a beauty that, in another hundred years, is at risk of being lost to drastic changes induced by man-made climate change.

The Stegreif Orchestra presents Mahler's melodies from Symphonies Nos. 1, 3 and 10, the Song of the Earth and the Wunderhorn songs, among others, with an improvisational lightness. As with Mahler, this lightness is juxtaposed with aspects of transience and destruction. Four composition teams with different musical languages were commissioned to each arrange one movement for this work. The program is not based on a single classical work, but contains references to different works by Gustav Mahler, which are, however, united by the common theme of nature. The result is a multifaceted reflection of Mahler's musical world with contemporary themes.

Climate change affects the existence of all humans, as well as their health and nutrition. It permanently destroys farms, causes droughts and drives mass extinction. Scientists all over the world are dealing with the causes and consequences of climate change – solutions are being developed, with international initiatives drawing attention to them. With this program, we as artists are asking ourselves: how can we, through music, make our contribution to encouraging critical thinking, shaking things up and stimulating a change in consciousness?



Photo: Sophia Hegewald

Premiere: 29. November 2020, Gretchen Berlin

Recomposition: Franziska Aller, Sebastian Caspar, Alistair Duncan, Claas Krause, Malte Schiller

Musical Director: N.N.

Lightdesign: N.N.

Press reviews:

"This varied evening liberates Mahler, demonstrating the modern artistic potential of this composer, whose works are interpreted symphonically but also lend themselves to jazz and rock. Such stylistic surprises, performed to perfection, are a hallmark of this young ensemble, which is made up of excellent musicians. The Stegreiforchester effortlessly and organically combines woodwind and brass sounds, violins, violas, and cellos with the modern sound of rock guitar, electric bass, and drum set." rbb24, November 23, 2020

Duration: approx. 60 min

movements:

1. Sebastian Caspar: Arrangement#1 based on 1st Symphony
2. Malte Schiller: Ablösung im Sommer, based on 3rd Symphony and Des Knaben Wunderhorn
3. Franziska Aller & Alistair Duncan: Your Majesty, Earth, based on 10th Symphony
4. Sebastian Caspar: Arrangement#2 based on 1st Symphony
5. Claas Krause: "EURE KINDER WÄREN AUS BLOSSEM FEUER MIT MESSERN ALS FINGER" (Your children would be made of pure fire with knives for fingers), based on various Mahler pieces

Participants (14–18 people in total):

- 11–15 musicians: strings (2, 2, 2, 2 or 1, 1, 1), 4 wind instruments, guitar (with amplifier), double bass (with amplifier), percussion
- 3 staff: lighting design, tour management, sound engineer

Room requirements and equipment:

This program is designed as a stage production for a seated auditorium. Some aisles in the auditorium should be kept free during the performance. However, it is possible to adapt the room concept to unseated auditoriums with a moving audience.

Minimum stage size: portal size 8m, depth of 5m, approx. 40 square metres in total

Extract of required technology:

- adequate lighting equipment
- Stage platforms at different heights
- Stereo P.A., appropriate to the venue
- complete concert drum set
- Guitar amplifier, bass amplifier, a wireless handheld microphone with stand

Stegreif normally plays without amplification. If special room acoustics require amplification, clip microphones and radio links are required.

Complete tech rider on request.



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