



First announcement of the Wolf Durmashkin composition award 2017-2018

International composition competition for up-and-coming artists on “Music and Holocaust”: Call for participation in the Wolf Durmashkin Composition-Award.

Landsberg/Munich. With the Wolf Durmashkin Composition Award, WDCA, young musicians up to 35 years are called upon to deal with the Holocaust and to create contemporary and artistic interpretations.

The namesake is the Jewish pianist, composer, conductor and choir director Wolf Durmashkin from today's Vilnius, who was murdered by National Socialists in an Estonian concentration camp in 1944 at the age of 29. The competition is induced by the 70th anniversary of the concert of the “Orkester fun der Szeerit Hapleitah” (orchestra of the last survivors), which at that time, was conducted by Leonard Bernstein in Landsberg's camp for displaced persons. Durmashkin's sisters were members of that orchestra.

Durmashkin had already made a name for himself as a versatile, highly-endowed musician far beyond the borders of Lithuania when, in June 1941, he and his family were forced to live in the ghetto with deprivation, humiliation and constant fear of death. For him, music was an expression of the spiritual resistance against exclusion, hatred, violence and extermination. His sisters, the singer Henia and the pianist Fania, survived the Holocaust in the concentration camps outside Kaufering / Landsberg after their deportation. They became members of the DP orchestra of St. Ottilien, which gave the so-called "liberation concert" at the end of May 1945, only one month after their liberation. Three years later, in Landsberg's camp for Displaced Persons, Leonard Bernstein conducted the orchestra, which by then, had changed its name to "Orkester fun der Szeerit Hapleitah" (orchestra of the last survivors). At the occasion of the 70th anniversary of that performance on May 10, 2018, which also commemorates the foundation of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, the winning compositions, endowed with a total of 6,500 euros will be premiered.

Apart from the commemoration of the almost forgotten musicians, the aim is to stimulate young people, to develop an awareness of the past and to simultaneously build musical bridges into the future. The internationally announced WDCA was developed by the journalist Karla Schönebeck as well as by Wolfgang Hauck, chairman of Landsberg's sociocultural association «dieKunstBauStelle e.V.», and is conducted in cooperation with the University of Music and Performing Arts in Munich – with Prof. Dr. Bernd Redmann, Prof. Jan Müller-Wieland, and Prof. Tilmann Jäger in charge. Further involved is the director of the Bavarian Philharmonics, Mark Mast, as well as the author and violin maker Martin Schleske. The patron is Abba Naor, vice president of the Comitée International de Dachau, who was born in Lithuania.

The project is funded by the Kulturfonds Bayern 2017, the district of Oberbayern and the Hans-Heinrich-Martin-Foundation.

The deadline for submission is January 10, 2018 (poststemp).

For more information, visit www.wdc-award.org

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dieKunstBauStelle





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Terms and conditions of the competition

Awarding authority

dieKunstBauStelle e.V.

in Cooperation with

University of Music and Performing Arts Munich

Patronage

Abba Naor

Vice-president of the "Comité International de Dachau"

Specialist Advice

Prof. Dr. Bernd Redmann, Prof. Jan Müller-Wieland, Prof. Tilman Jäger, Mark Mast

Idea and Conception

Karla Schönebeck, Wolfgang Hauck, Martin Schleske

Participants

As public competition composers of all nationalities, up to 35 years of age (Deadline January 10th 2018) may participate.

Conditions of Participation

From the multi-faceted historical subject only the following specifications for instrumentation and cast are derived – independent from the artistic and creative freedom in all other areas.

Rules for Composition and Cast

Category: Vocals and Instrumental

Cast: Up to five musicians

Instrumentation:

Compositions are permitted only with the following instruments and vocals in free selection, which can be staged without technical/electronic aids.

Vocals (Tenor, Soprano)

and a soloistic ensemble with the following instruments:

Accordion, String instruments (maximum 2x violins, 1x viola, 1x cello, 1x bass)

Percussion (Percussion/drums), Clarinet, Horn and trumpet

Text Material for the Composition

From the historical and biographical material, poems, songs or texts are made available. These texts can be edited and used as desired.



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Additional Conditions:

- One composition per participant can be submitted
- The performance may be up to max. 10 minutes
- The works submitted must be compiled for this competition and may not have been published or awarded in any form (performance, online, video or recordings).

A detailed description and documentation about the DP-Orchestra, Wolf Durmashkin and the situation in the concentration camps in the Landsberg am Lech region, serve as an introduction to the subject and its background.

You can find them by following the link www.wdc-award.org

Endowment

The prize is awarded in three stages, regardless of the category:

1st prize 3,000 €

2nd prize 2,000 €

3rd prize 1,500 €

dieKunstBauStelle e.V.

The association is a non-profit organization with the purpose of promoting art and culture. The association "dieKunstBauStelle" was founded in January 2014. Its aim is to initiate, organize and carry out projects in the field of culture and art; to promote the exchange of experiences in organizational and economical fields of art, cultural mediation, cultural education and cultural youth work; to implement, promote, support and organize events and projects for presentation; training and public relations of artists to establish cultural and artistic alliances and co-operations between artists or joint projects and to realize exhibitions, congresses and publications for the presentation and documentation of art and culture.

University of Music and Performing Arts Munich

The University of Music and Performing Arts Munich (UMPA) is one of the most important and diverse training centers for music, dance and theater professions in Europe.

At five different locations in Munich, 1,200 students are trained in about 100 courses for various artistic and pedagogical occupations.

The courses range from orchestral and keyboard instruments to historical performance, jazz, composition, folk music, music journalism and cultural management.

The bachelor's and master's degree programs are rounded off by a Bachelor's program for high-school musicians and the master's degree certificate. Around 500 teachers – many of them with an international reputation – and numerous alumni in artistic top positions provide for the worldwide radiance of music, dance and theater education in Munich.

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