



Ernst von Siemens Music Prize 2021 to Georges Aperghis In 2021, the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation will provide funding of 5.6 million euros

The 2021 recipient of the international Ernst von Siemens Music Prize is Georges Aperghis as the Foundation's Board of Trustees announced Tuesday night. This award comes with prize money of 250,000 euros. This was announced by the Foundation's Board of Trustees on Tuesday evening at the award ceremony for Tabea Zimmermann. Furthermore, that the three 2021 Composer Prizes – which each come with 35,000 euros – will go to Malte Giesen from Germany, Mirela Ivičević from Croatia and Yair Klartag from Israel. The Student Aid Fund – established in 2020 to combat the effects of the Corona Pandemic and which totalled 3.6 million euros – will continue to support students this year with a further 2 million euros. In 2021, the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation's main focus will continue to be the promotion of contemporary music projects worldwide, which is where the majority of its funding will go.

With **Georges Aperghis**, the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation honours a unique and unmistakable compositional voice of our time. Per the Board of Trustees of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation, his impressive artistic output – transcending all currents and resisting any quick classification – is one-of-a-kind. The diversity and profoundness of his music, his progressive use of language, as well as his openness to pursue those areas that contemporary music rarely goes, are appreciated in equal measure.

Born on 23 December 1945 in Athens as the son of a sculptor and a painter, Aperghis was initially unable to choose between the visual arts and music, which he came to via piano lessons with a family friend and via the radio. Ultimately, his becoming a composer was essentially off his own back. The independence that this produced, coupled with a strong belief in his own artistic power, pervades his entire oeuvre to this day. In 1963, he moved to Paris, where he still lives and works today. Here, he began seeking out connections to the compositional currents of the time: to Pierre Boulez's serialism, to the tape experiments of "musique concrète", to the music of his compatriot Iannis Xenakis, who lived in the same city and worked with sound clusters, and to the instrumental theatre of Mauricio Kagel. From 1970 onwards, he gradually established his own voice. Aperghis' compositional output comprises more than 100 works, incorporating numerous pieces for solo instruments including many for voice solo, such as the *Récitations* for female voice in 1978, or the *Jactations* (i.e. stuttering) for baritone solo in 2001. Additionally, he has written chamber music and ensemble works, with occasional orchestral works. The works are often the result of a close and very personal relationship with experimental performers such as Geneviève Strosser, Nicolas Hodges or Uli Fussenegger and ensembles such as Ictus, Klangforum Wien or the Ensemble intercontemporain. All works, whether with voice or purely instrumental, have one thing in common: the important role played by speech.

What has most characterised his work over his entire career is Aperghis' tireless search for a new form of musical theatre that "makes music out of everything". In 1976, he founded his first theatre with his wife, the actress Edith Scob, with whom he has two sons: the Atelier Théâtre et Musique, called ATEM, is musical theatre grounded in the social reality of a Parisian suburb (Bagnolet). Here, he searches for new connections between theatre and music, sounds and bodies. Pieces such as *Avis de Tempête* from 2004 combine elements of voice, instruments, gestures, narration, and scenery to produce a unique expressive framework. Aperghis' musical theatre is characterised by a great openness to the "other", even if this is a machine or a robot, often created in dialogue with other art forms such as drama, dance or visual art.

Georges Aperghis' fresh spirit, his inventiveness, his unrelenting research and his achievements in the field of musical theatre make him one of the most prolific personalities in contemporary music. For his achievements, he will receive the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize 2021 on 17 February 2022 in Munich's Muffathalle.

Young Composer Prizes 2021

The three 2021 Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation Composer Prizes are being awarded to Malte Giesen from Germany, Mirela Ivičević from Croatia, living in Austria, and Yair Klartag from Israel. These awards, given to promising young composers, come with an endowment of 35,000 euros. In addition, the young artists will receive a high quality, individually produced portrait CD, which will be released as part of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation series on the Viennese label KAIROS. The three composers will be

presented with their award on 1st October 2021 together with the prize winners of 2020, Samir Amarouch from France, Catherine Lamb from the USA, living in Berlin, and Francesca Verunelli from Italy. The two concerts will be organised by *musica viva* of the Bayerischer Rundfunk at the Prinzregententheater in Munich. The Ensemble Modern will perform under the direction of David Niemann.

Malte Giesen, born in Germany in 1988, studied composition and computer music at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart with Marco Stroppa and Oliver Schneller, followed by further studies at the CNSM Paris with Gérard Pesson and with Hanspeter Kyburz, as well as at HfM Berlin where he studied electroacoustic music with Wolfgang Heiniger. He teaches contemporary improvisation at HfM Karlsruhe and electroacoustic music at HfM Berlin. Malte Giesen handles all technical matters with virtuosity and a light hand. With the help of his computer, he is able to question everything about music that otherwise seems self-evident.

Mirela Ivičević was born in Croatia in 1980. She studied composition and music theory at the Zagreb Music Academy with Željko Brkanović, composition with Beat Furrer in Graz and media composition and applied music with Klaus-Peter Sattler in Vienna, the city that she has since made her home. Here she and others founded the Black Page Orchestra, which specialises in experimental concerts. The subversive potential of sound is at the centre of Mirela Ivičević's work, which recontextualises the tonal, medial and other (by-)products of everyday life.

Yair Klartag is an Israeli composer currently living in Tel Aviv. He studied composition at Tel-Aviv University, at the Musikhochschule Basel and at Columbia University with Ruben Seroussi and Georg Friedrich Haas. Klartag's approach to the composing process focuses on the way sound is absorbed by the listener: "I care about the inner form of a sound - understanding the duration that it needs in order to unfold and to be perceived. Playing in line with and in juxtaposition to these durations is one of the most frequently used tools in my compositional box."

The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation awards 5.6 million euros

In 2021, the Foundation will award a total of 3.6 million euros in prizes and grants, to 135 projects worldwide in the field of contemporary music. The largest share of the funding will continue to support commissions for new works, but will also go to revivals, festivals, concerts, children's and youth projects, academies and publications. The first ever Ensemble Prizes – which aim to support the artistic and structural development of outstanding young ensembles with prize money of 75,000 euros per winner – went to the Riot Ensemble from London and the Ensemble Synaesthesia from Lithuania. The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation also provides additional funds for the concert series *räsonanz* in cooperation with *musica viva* of the Bayerische Rundfunk and Lucerne Festival. The next Founder's Concert will take place on 6th September 2021 in Lucerne.

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Note

The Ernst von Siemens Music Prize (EvS Music Prize) has been awarded annually since 1973 by the private Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation (EvS Music Foundation), which is based in Switzerland. The prize is not associated with the Siemens AG or the Siemens Stiftung associated with it. For this reason, we request that you ensure that the name of the foundation and the prize is reproduced correctly.

Detailed information, interview requests as well as picture and video material:

Dr. Tanja Pröbstl and Imke List | +49/(0)89/636-32947 and -32907 | presse@evs-musikstiftung.ch