NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC SCHOOL
presents

THE 2021
RENÉE B. FISHER PIANO
COMPETITION

Aer
by Otto Wanke

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION WORK
Commissioned by the Renée B. Fisher Foundation

To be premiered at the 2021 Winners' Concert

The FISHER Competition

He has undertaken a series of musical studies: first jazz composition in Prague, later classical, film and electroacoustic composition – under Karlheinz Essl, Iris ter Schiphorst, Wolfgang Liebhart in Vienna.

His repertoire includes instrumental works for solo instruments, chamber and orchestral ensembles. He often works with vocal artists and wrote several pieces for choir, too. He takes inspiration from literature, visual arts, philosophy and mathematics. These various influences often lead him to multimedia projects. Aside from classical music his composing skills span over a wide range of styles, including electroacoustic music, modern jazz, film, theatre and radio plays. His music has been broadcast worldwide and performed throughout Europe and in the USA.

In 2010 he moved to Prague to study jazz music. During this period, he was a member of various popular music bands. In Prague he started composing for bigger ensembles (e.g. Movements for string orchestra). Until that period, he saw his two main spheres of activity - composing and playing - as equally dominant. Two years later in 2012 he moved to Vienna in order to continue his studies at the music university. Since then he has been working regularly with contemporary music ensembles and musicians. Aside from widening his horizons as a composer, he also began his musical training in conducting.

In 2013 he started to cooperate with Bruno Liberta. This experience resulted in involving new media into his compositions. An example piece from this period is called Breathing Under Water, for which he was awarded the first price in Maarble composers competition in Greece. Following compositions such as Stufen for violin and electronics and Pulse for bass clarinet and electronics were performed in several European countries. Recently he has been active as a performer of electroacoustic music, working as a soloist as well as in cooperation with other musicians.

In 2015, he gave a concert at the Ministry of Culture during festival Wien Modern and series of concerts in Brazil and Mexico. In 2016, his orchestra piece Shimmering Substance was selected to be performed in the ORF House.

On the same year his composer’s portrait was broadcast in Austrian radio Ö1 under the occasion of Ö1 competition. The same year he won Gustav Mahler competition. Within this project he cooperated with important Austrian artists like Paul Gulda, Wolfgang Mitterer and Christoph Cech.

In 2017 he was selected by Francis-Burt-Foundation and received an art scholarship.

In the same year he won the 2nd prize in the FiMS competition in Switzerland, 1st prize in Joan Guinjoan competition in Spain and Choir-Gmund-Competition in Germany.

In 2018, he won the prize in the Wolf Durmashkin Composition Award and Acht Brücke Award both in Germany and Competition Sounds of Matters in Vienna. In the same year he was employed as an assistant at the department of ethnomusicology at the music university of Vienna and he started doing PhD program with focus on spectral music (MDW Vienna, under Gesine Schröder).

In 2019, he was awarded the prestigious Theodor Körner Award, which he received from Austrian President Alexander van der Bellen.
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Awards


• 2016, Ö1 Award, Vienna. Finale.

• 2017 Gustav Mahler Award in Klagenfurt. First prize. Yes we... for choir, ensemble and live electronic.

• 2017 Joan Guinjoan Award, Barcelona. First prize. *Threads* for ensemble.

• 2017 FIMS Award, Freiburg. Second prize. *Ma* for chamber ensemble.

• 2018 Wolf Durmashkin Award, Landsberg. Third prize. *Dein Schatten* for soprano and chamber ensemble.

• 2018 Sounds of Matter Award, Vienna. First prize... *Verbindungen*... for piano trio.

• 2018 Achtbrücke Composition Competition, Cologne. Third prize. *Pulse*... *Schatten* for large ensemble.

• 2018 European Church Music Award, Schwäbisch Gmünd. First prize. ...*durch*... for choir.

• 2018 Carl Orff Composition Competition, Munich. Finale. *Sie war ein Wurzel* for soprano and harp.

• 2019 Theodor Körner Prize, Vienna. First prize.

• 2019 Buda Castle Beethoven Composers’ Competition, Budapest. Invocare for violin and piano.
Duration: ca. 5min

Performance notes:

$\frac{1}{2}$ \quad half pedal

Work introduction:

My composition *aer* was inspired by the artwork of Italian futurist painter Gerardo Dottori (1884 - 1977). Dottori’s principal output was representation of landscapes, mostly viewed from a bird’s eye view. His major contribution to futurism was a technique called *aeropainting*. In my composition, I found a musical equivalent of Dottori’s picture of mystically rippled landscape. In this piece there are constant figurations, which are like threads incessantly revolving in a spiral. Furthermore, this spiral movement is supported by tempo variations and changes of dynamic, which are often used in highly contrasting way.
"aer"

for piano solo