

RADICALLY.MOVING.BEAUTIFUL:

## comPOSITION

The Berlin Opera Prize of NEUKÖLLNER OPER and GASAG, in cooperation with THEATER FREIBURG and supported by Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung.

comPOSITION invites you to produce a half-hour music theatre at the expense of the prize-givers and with premieres in Berlin as well as a further collaboration with THEATER FREIBURG.



**comPOSITION**  
**BERLINER OPERNPREIS**

VON NEUKÖLLNER OPER UND GASAG  
Zusammenarbeit mit: Theater Freiburg  
Unterstützt von: Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung

As an applicant, you will submit a concept including a composition example for a new musical theatre that wants to reach and move people emotionally and turn the text into a musical theatre in your sense and that you perform yourself or have performed under the production conditions mentioned below.

The competition is aimed at composers working alone or in a team in Germany and Europe.

The NEUKÖLLNER OPER stands for an undogmatic, genre-, style- and culture-spanning musical theatre and is looking forward to vital, world- and experience-open, artistic works with music as central protagonist on stage.

Two short stories by the author Ferdinand von Schirach\* form the textual basis for the competition. Schirach is one of Germany's most successful writers, whose books have become bestsellers all over the world and always have a social thematic reference. With the author's consent, two of his works will be premiered as music theatre for the first time.

\* *A light blue day* and *Subotnic* from: *Punishment* by Ferdinand von Schirach (published by Luchterhand, available on request)

*"Happiness is a political greatness, the only thing we lack is awareness of it."*

Eduard Louis

### **Music theatre for our world**

Music is language, feeling and world! It creates, especially in music theatre, contexts of meaning and - if successful - strong feelings. Happiness, despair, lamentation, jubilation... This emotional thrust, this successful communication between theatre, music and spectators is the be-all and end-all that we need socially and can shape positively. To be relevant. Music is a language - hence the word "music literature". Music accompanies and shapes our relationship to ourselves, to others and to the whole of this world in childhood, youth and as adults.

### **Get out of the art bubble of New Music...**

The mainstream of classical music from the middle of the 20th century, often summarized under the term NEUE MUSIK, has led to a self-referential and exclusive music scene. Measured by the importance of music in our lives, it has hardly any audience and social relevance.

### **...head for new, relevant impulses!**

However, the composers and creative teams, who are supported by the BERLINER OPERNPREIS and accompanied into the world of theatre, want an exchange with society and its various musical languages. They want to be heard and have something to say, now that political extremes are growing and the relationship between man and truth is in question.

### **comPOSITION**

aims at the universally linguistic, connecting and integrating, not at ensuring self-exalted intellectual exclusivity. Academic music too often replaces the beautiful, the emotional and the pleasurable with discursive concepts and dogmas, distinguishes itself from all music that has a direct comprehensibility. That music in today's diverse, confusing world, such as popular and folk music, classical music from European and non-European traditions, jazz and much more.



## THE PROCEDERE

The competition consists of three levels:

### - LEVEL 1 - APPLICATION

1. you introduce yourself about a piece of music theatre you have created and already performed in the form of a play description, sheet music, sound and image recordings (preferably digitized or as a link).
2. you choose one of the two texts by Ferdinand von Schirach (see 3.), which you want to turn into music theatre. Submit your concept in the above sense. It should describe the transformation process from text to music theatre, include your ideas on staging, cast and stage as well as a music scene composed for it, which makes clear the musical and aesthetic gesture of your work. The comPOSITION competition explicitly refers to all genres of musical theatre between Monteverdi and the Beatles, Mozart, Lehar and Bernstein, Zappa or clever musicals, including pop culture. The works should be conceived for a maximum of seven performers (singers and musicians). You have the opportunity to perform this work yourself or have it interpreted by members of your group of artists and/or by artists from NEUKÖLLNER OPER. At the centre of your work is the live/sung music as the central means of expression of a scenic work. This means that only electronic or pre-produced music and "static works" in the sense of a sound installation are excluded.
3. two short stories by Ferdinand von Schirach are available as a textual basis: EIN HELLBLAUER TAG and SUBOTNIKS
4. you send the vitae of the participants with corresponding contact data to NEUKÖLLNER OPER.

Based on the entries submitted, the jury will select up to six concepts, which will be invited to a presentation at NEUKÖLLNER OPER.

Closing date: 15 June 2019

### - LEVEL 2 - PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP

Presentation: The selected teams nominate up to two representatives who present their project proposals (concept, music, text) to the jury and other contestants in a suitable and clear manner.

Workshop I: You will discuss and deepen your concept in discussion with the jury



Presentation/workshop at NEUKÖLLNER OPER, weekend 11 - 13 October 2019. Immediately afterwards, the jury will select two finalists from the presented works.

Workshop II: Coaching of the two selected finalists by experts and advisors from culture and society as well as with regard to the concrete implementation by Tatjana Beyer (THEATER FREIBURG) and Bernhard Glocksinn (NEUKÖLLNER OPER).

### - LEVEL 3 - REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

The two finalists\* are invited to complete their piece in a three-week rehearsal process. NEUKÖLLNER OPER offers a production budget, technical infrastructure, technical and dramaturgical support, production management and - if desired - the necessary artists. The allocation of the production budget will be mutually agreed between NEUKÖLLNER OPER and the artists. The premieres of the pieces will take place in a special setting (award gala at a special venue). At this gala, the works will be judged by the jury and awarded prizes. Further public performances are then planned. The performers receive additional remuneration for these performances. Technical and artistic aspects which the ensemble is not able to carry independently must be clarified with NEUKÖLLNER OPER in good time and by mutual agreement.

The first performance/award gala and performances will take place on 6, 8 and 9 May 2020.

The competition entries must be in German or English and, if necessary, translated into German.

In addition, the winner of the first prize will be commissioned by THEATER FREIBURG with a further work.

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### THE JURY

Tatjana Beyer – Chief Dramaturge Music Theatre THEATER FREIBURG

Jan Dvorak - Composer, Chief Dramaturge Opera at Nationaltheater Mannheim

Bernhard Glocksinn - Artistic Director NEUKÖLLNER OPER, Berlin

Desirée Meiser - Artistic Director Gare du Nord, Basel

Wiebke Roloff – music critic

Arash Safaian - composer, Munich



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## **GASAG - Full of Energy for Berlin**

As a company with strong ties to the capital, the promotion of art and culture is a matter close to our hearts. For many years, we have been working closely with partners from the Berlin cultural scene in order to set positive accents in the promotion of culture and to make things possible that would not exist without us. A cooperation such as this with NEUKÖLLNER OPER is part of our corporate identity and an expression of our role as one of the oldest and most traditional Berlin companies. Uniqueness, entrepreneurial courage and perseverance, the constant further development of ideas and initiatives as well as sustainable added value for all those involved - these are generally the usual characteristics of a successful product. At the same time, they are characteristics that also characterize artistic work - and GASAG's many years of commitment to culture. The BERLINER OPERNPREIS, which has already been awarded for 20 years, has developed into an established prize for young talent in the field of music theatre in Berlin's cultural landscape and beyond.

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## **The NEUKÖLLNER OPER - 41 years different**

Since its foundation, the NEUKÖLLNER OPER has performed over 240 works for the first time. It has thus become an internationally active anchor institution for a modern form of musical folk theatre that develops contemporary and entertaining themes for the stage in every conceivable format.

## **THEATER FREIBURG**

Since the 2017/2018 season, Peter Carp has been artistic director of Theater Freiburg. It is a multi-part theatre consisting of music theatre, drama, dance, young theatre, concert as well as various discourse series and a bar with a versatile night and late-night program.

New perspectives, ideas and inspirations can only be opened up by dealing with the new, the sometimes unusual or the foreign. And so Peter Carp has declared THEATER FREIBURG a WORLD RECEIVER, a meeting place for different artistic, cultural, aesthetic, formal and human forms of expression and views of the world. Since then, the artistic work at THEATER FREIBURG has been characterized by a high degree of internationality and the constant encounter with the unknown in the familiar and vice versa.



Over the long axis from south-west to east, from Freiburg to Berlin, THEATER FREIBURG and NEUKÖLLNER OPER have developed a dialogue about new forms of narrative in music theatre. In order to continue this research mission and to make new theses and ideas for musical theatre a reality on stage, as the NEUKÖLLNER OPER has been doing for many years, THEATER FREIBURG is supporting the Berlin Opera Prize ideologically and personally and is considering a continuation of the winning projects at THEATER FREIBURG.

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### **The Federal Agency for Civic Education**

...Our goal is to promote democratic awareness among the population and to motivate and enable people in the Federal Republic of Germany to participate in political life in a responsible, critical and active manner. In order to achieve this goal, we are developing educational and discussion programmes with which we want to convey knowledge, insight and understanding of the historical and social context of political, social, cultural, economic and ecological processes... (from the mission statement of the bpb)

