

Johannes X. Schachtner

- Biography -

By Simone Lutz

Johannes X. Schachtner, born on 26 June 1985 in Gräfelfing, lives in Munich as a conductor and composer. He received his first musical training learning the trumpet; there followed piano and conducting instruction from Ulrich Weder. Starting in 2004 he studied composition at the Academy of Music and Theatre in Munich, first with Professors Hans-Jürgen von Bose and Rudi Spring, then with Prof. Jan Müller-Wieland. At the same time he attended the conducting class of Prof. Bruno Weil, completing both courses of study with the master class diploma.

Schachtner's compositional production includes works for solo instruments, chamber, vocal and orchestral music as well as works for music theatre. Internationally renowned soloists such as Silke Avenhaus, Julia Fischer, Sebastian Klinger, Peter Schöne and the conductor Michael Sanderling have performed his works. The renowned concert series of the Munich Biennale "Klangspuren plus" dedicated a portrait concert to him, and he received composition commissions from the Bavarian State Opera (Opera Festival 2007), the Hamburg Klangwerktagen, the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, the Siemens Arts Programme and the Bavarian Academy of the Fine Arts. His short opera "Hannah und Tim" (libretto: Norbert Niemann) received its world premiere at the 2009 Munich Biennale. A second short opera by the composer to a libretto by Birgit Müller-Wieland will receive its premiere in 2011 at the A·DEvantgarde Festival. His works are published by Hans Sikorski Music Publishers.

As a conductor, Schachtner has worked with the Georgian Chamber Orchestra of Ingolstadt, the Munich Symphony Orchestra, the Bad Reichenhall Philharmonic and at the A·DEvantgarde Festival. In 2007 he made his operatic debut with Giachino Rossini's "Il turco in Italia." There followed the world premiere production of the children's opera "The Lost Thoughts" by Marco Hertenstein (Kaufbeuren Municipal Theatre 2008, State Theatre am Gärtnerplatz Munich 2009). Also in 2008, as tutor and musical assistant, he supervised the opening production of the Munich Reactor Hall with works of György Ligeti as well as a world premiere by Jan Müller-Wieland; in 2009 he directed Brecht/Weill's "The Seven Deadly Sins" with the singer Salome Kammer. In 2010 he conducted "Cosi fan tutte" and was engaged by the Augsburg State Theatre as musical assistant for the production of Bernhard Lang's opera "I Hate Mozart."

Johannes X. Schachtner's oeuvre has received numerous awards. In 2009 he received a stipend of the International Artists' House Villa Concordia in Bamberg, and in the following year he was a scholarship holder at the Cité des Arts in Paris. He was nominated as up-and-coming artist for the GEMA Composers' Prize 2010 and also received a nomination for the C.C. Buchner Prize in Bamberg. In 2011 he is a guest of the Visby International Centre for Composers in Sweden and Artist in Residence of the Bad Reichenhall Philharmonic.

Alongside his activities as composer and conductor, Johannes X. Schachtner is also active as an instructor and artistic director. Thus he has been teaching at the Children's Music Holidays in Vitznau/Switzerland since 2005 and is part of the artistic team of directors of the 11th A·DEvantgarde Festival.