

## Press Release

Vienna, September 15, 2022

### **Jazz Composer Makes Entry into the Realm of Classical Music World Premiere: "A Tribute to James Joyce"**

Setting Poems to Music for Mezzo-Soprano, Piano, and Flute

The Bank Austria Salon at the Old City Hall in Vienna provides a setting that befits the world premiere of "A Tribute to James Joyce" by Stefan Pelzl. In this distinguished venue, the musical interpretation of poems from James Joyce's cycle "Chamber Music" will come to life. The compositions captivate with an aesthetic where a clear and captivating melody always takes center stage. The chordal accompaniment underscores and interprets the emotional content of James Joyce's texts. Taking the stage is an exceptional ensemble featuring Mezzo-Soprano (Flaka Goranci), Piano (Ketevan Sepashvili), and Flute (Temo Kharshiladze).

Composer Stefan Pelzl on the choice of musicians: "Flaka, with her beautiful warm voice, as well as Ketevan and Temo, who have already amazed me in many of their concerts, are the perfect fit for me. They are not only outstanding, highly professional performers but also approach my pieces with a love and enthusiasm that moves and delights me."

Opera singer Flaka Goranci (Mezzo-Soprano) has already shined on the international stage, mastering a wide repertoire of classical music from Bellini to Kurt Weill and Tchaikovsky. She has collaborated with the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, Concentus Musicus Wien, and the Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, to name a few. She performed at the Venice Biennale, played at the Wiener Konzerthaus, Wiener Musikverein, and Theater an der Wien. The "Wiener Zeitung" was impressed by Flaka Goranci's "warm Mezzo-Soprano," and the "Opera Lounge" praises her "light, bright Mezzo-Soprano, which she employs in a highly cultivated manner."

The Mezzo-Soprano is accompanied by Georgian pianist Ketevan Sepashvili, who is based in Vienna. "European Cultural News" describes her as "Explosive Energy at the Piano" and labels her as an exceptional artist: "The reason people are so captivated when Sepashvili is at the piano is that she immerses herself in a state where she brings forth the music of different composers like a kind of medium." The "Süddeutsche Zeitung" reverently writes under the heading "Im Pianisten-Himmel": "She possessed the virtuosity not only to master the enormous technical demands of the work but also to shape the subtleties of the music in the process. A pianist who forgoes mannerisms and convinces through a straightforward and lean style." Completing the duo is flutist Temo Kharshiladze, also Georgian. Since 2018, the "chamber music pair" (Sepashvili/Kharshiladze) has been working together, releasing several CDs ("Undine" and "33 Miniaturen für Klavier"). Kharshiladze is a graduate of the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna), majoring in concert flute. He won the 1st prize at the Prof. Dichler Competition in Vienna and is a laureate of the International Woodwind and Brass Competition Varazdin. He has been a fellow of international associations like the Werner Tripp Foundation Austria.

For Pelzl, "A Tribute to James Joyce" represents a consistent evolution within the genre of Contemporary Classical Music. As is often the case in life, chance also plays a role here: a musician friend drew the composer's attention to the poetry cycle "Chamber Music" by James Joyce. Stefan Pelzl speaks of how "Joyce describes love in all its aspects in a wonderfully ethereal language" and how he does not omit the "ambivalent feelings and longings." "I wanted to embed these texts in music that corresponds to their emotional content and perhaps amplifies it." Composer Pelzl, known to many as a jazz musician from bands like "JazzMed," the medical band that holds benefit concerts for "Ärzte ohne Grenzen," "New ADO ADO," or "Stefan Pelzl's JUJU," has been venturing into the realm of Contemporary Classical Music for over 10 years. His motivation is that his compositions should be interpreted not only by himself but also by others: "String quartets have always fascinated me," says Pelzl. Consequently, the collaboration with the string quintet of the "Wiener Kammer-symphonie/Viennese Chamber Symphony" (WKS) was a logical step. They have over 70 successful worldwide performances of his composition "Portrait in 3 Farben."

World premiere of "A Tribute to James Joyce" on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 7:30 PM  
Venue: Bank Austria Salon at the Old City Hall, Wipplingerstraße 8, A-1010 Vienna  
Tickets available at the door from 6:30 PM  
Admission: 25 Euros, reduced 15 Euros  
Reservations requested at: [pelzlconnect@aon.at](mailto:pelzlconnect@aon.at)

Note: Pictures/videos will be taken during the event. These or excerpts may be published.

Further information at:  
<https://stefanpelzl.pageflow.io/stefan-pelzl#346734>

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