

Gesangsstück (2003)

Wolfgang Rihm

“The trio for violin, clarinet, and piano was composed in spring of 2003. This piece is my attempt to 'harmonize' the sound of the three instruments having such different types of timbre. The characteristic element of the piece is 'continuity' of instrumental parts creating a dense texture of the trio. In terms of music material, the trio is based on harmonic dualism having a significant impact on the shape of this one-movement composition. The piece was commissioned by Verdehr Trio and is dedicated to this ensemble.”

—Wolfgang Rihm

The world premiere of *Gesangsstück* was on September 26, 2003 in the Concert Hall of the Frederic Chopin Academy of Music, Warsaw, Poland.

Wolfgang Rihm (born 1952, Karlsruhe, Germany) studied composition with Eugen Werner Velte at the Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe, with Karlheinz Stockhausen in Cologne, and with Klaus Huber at the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg. He received an honorary doctorate from the Freie Universität Berlin in 1998.

Rihm is a highly acclaimed composer of stage, orchestral, chamber, choral, vocal, and piano works which have received performances worldwide. In 2010 the BBC Symphony Orchestra featured the music of Rihm in one of their “total immersion” weekends at the Barbican Centre, London. Recordings from the weekend were used for three *Hear and Now* programs on BBC Radio 3. His opera *Dionysus* was premiered at the Salzburg Festival and the performance was voted World Premiere of the Year for 2010–2011 by *Opernwelt* magazine. Other performances include those by the New York Philharmonic, Vienna Symphony, Bavarian State Opera, and Rokoko Theatre Schwetzingen,

Rihm has received fellowships from the city of Hamburg, the Cité des Arts in Paris, the German Art Academy at the Villa Massimo in Rome, the Berlin Science Institute, and the German Music Council. He has been Composer-in-Residence with the Strasbourg, Luzern, and Salzburg Festivals, and he was featured in the *Komponistenporträt* of the Rheingau Musik Festival in 1995. He has worked as co-editor of the music journal *Melos* and in an advisory role for Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Heinrich Strobel Institute, and the Centre for Art and Media Technologies in Karlsruhe. He is a member of the Academy of the Arts in the cities of Munich, Berlin, and Mannheim.

Rihm has been honored with numerous awards: Berlin Art Prize Fellowship, Kranichstein Music Prize, Reinhold-Schneider Prize Freiburg, German Distinguished Service Cross, Rolf Liebermann Prize, Jacob Burckhardt Prize of the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Foundation, Ernst von Siemens Music Award, The Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement for the music sectors of the Biennale de Venezia, Cross of the Order of Merit with Star of the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Robert Schumann Prize for Poetry and Music. Regions throughout Germany have recognized him with city prizes and medals: Stuttgart, Mannheim, Bonn, Hamburg, Baden-Württemberg, and Salzburg.

From 1973–1978 Rihm taught at the Musikhochschule Karlsruhen and since 1978 he has been a regular lecturer at the Internationalen Ferienkurse für Neue Musik, Darmstadt. He briefly taught at the Musik-Akademie München and became Professor of Composition at the Musikhochschule Karlsruhe in 1985. He is Artistic Director of the Lucerne Festival Academy and resident composer at the Fast Forward Festival.