

INTERNATIONAL ORGAN IMPROVISATION COMPETITION "ANTON BRUCKNER"

THURSDAY & FRIDAY 15TH–16TH APRIL 2021

The new concert organ of the Linz Brucknerhaus, with its symphonic range of colour, is virtually predestined for the high art of improvisation. The Brucknerhaus has now for the first time dedicated an international competition to this supreme discipline of organ music, and the conditions of application are described in the following.

We are looking for young organists up to 35 years of age who possess their own individual musical language. Improvisation in historical styles is not required, but the candidates should demonstrate versatility and originality in the context of improvisations inspired by pictures, texts and musical themes provided.

First round preselection

2 forms:

- an improvisation in one or several parts with polyphonic elements on the following theme by Hans Haselböck:



- a free form based on the following picture: *Black Rectangle Blue Triangle* by Kasimir Malewitsch (1878–1935), 1915

The style can be freely chosen for both forms, up to a maximum of 15 minutes in total.

Recordings of the improvisations on CD, on another data storage device or online (no editing allowed, but the recordings may be separated into two files) must be sent by 8th February 2021 at the latest, either by post to

Brucknerhaus Linz

"Orgelimprovisationswettbewerb"

Untere Donaulände 7

A-4010 Linz

or via email to JanDavid.Schmitz@Liva.Linz.at; in the case of a postal delivery, the date of the postmark is decisive.

Jury:

Martin Haselböck

Jeremy Joseph

Martin Riccabona

The jury will choose eight participants to compete in the main round from the contributions sent in, which will be anonymous to the jury members. The decisions of the jury are final – there is no recourse to the courts.

Practice times and the order of the performances will be decided by lot in advance and communicated to the candidates with their invitations to the main round. This will take place at the end of February 2021.

Main round

15th April 2021 (Thursday)

Each candidate in the final will have two hours to get to know the Brucknerhaus organ. For the duration of the competition every candidate will receive an access key for saving her/his registrations and stop combinations.

16th April 2021 (Friday)

Main round (10 a.m.–12 noon & 1 p.m.–3 p.m.):

8 participants (4 in the morning und 4 in the afternoon, 20 minutes each, every half-hour)

2 forms:

- an improvisation on a theme by Anton Bruckner
- a free improvisation, based on a poem by Rainer Maria Rilke

The style can be freely chosen for both forms. The theme and the poem will be given to each participant the day before at the beginning of her/his practice session.

The jury will choose 4 finalists to play in the final round in the order they played in the main round. The names of the finalists will be announced at 4 p.m. Immediately afterwards the Bruckner themes for the final will be determined by drawing lots. Each finalist will be allotted a time for a half-hour session on the Brucknerhaus organ starting at 4.30 p.m.

Final (7.30 p.m., in front of an audience):

4 finalists (each 20–25 minutes)

A free, symphonic form (in more than one movement when appropriate) based on a Bruckner theme – one of the four allotted to the candidates at random (see above) – and on a theme written by the *Composer in Residence* Oscar Jockel, which can be combined with all four of the Bruckner themes. The choice of style is free.

Jury:

Martin Haselböck (chairman)

Monica Melcova

Franz Danksagmüller

Thomas Lennartz

Wolfgang Seifen

Prize money

1st prize: 4,000 €

2nd prize: 2,000 €

3rd prize: 1,000 €

The prizes will be awarded after the end of the final round on 16th April 2021.

The invitation to participate will be extended to musicians under 35 years of age on the closing date application (8th February 2021).

Candidates are responsible for their own travel and accommodation.

Detailed information about the new Brucknerhaus organ can be found online at

<https://www.brucknerhaus.at/zusaetzliche-inhalte/die-neue-brucknerhaus-orgel>