

A series of talks by leading international composers, linked to performances of their work in the UK. Organised by Dr Paul Archbold, in collaboration with Contemporary Music Research Unit Goldsmiths, Guildhall School, Kings College London, Institute of Modern Languages Research, School of Advanced Study, University of Huddersfield, Royal Holloway University of London, in association with BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival.



Photo: © David Furrer, 2014

Beat Furrer

in conversation with Dr Edward Nesbit

Tuesday 8 November 2016, 18:15
Room 349, Senate House, Malet Street,
London WC1E 7HU
Admission free

Beat Furrer was born in Schaffhausen (Switzerland) in 1954 and received his first musical training on piano at the Music School there. After moving to Vienna in 1975, he studied conducting with Otmar Suitner and composition with Roman Haubenstock Ramati at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst. In 1985 he founded the Klangforum Wien, which he directed until 1992, and with which he is still associated as conductor. Commissioned by the Vienna State Opera, he composed his first opera *Die Blinden*. His second opera *Narcissus* was premiered in 1994 as part of the Festival "steirischer herbst" at the Graz Opera. In 1996 he was composer-in-residence at the Lucerne Festival. His music theatre work *Begehren* was premiered in Graz in 2001, the opera *invocation* in Zürich in 2003 and the sound theatre piece *FAMA* in Donaueschingen in 2005. In autumn 1991 Furrer became a full professor of composition at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Graz. He has been guest professor in composition at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt 2006–2009. Together with violinist Ernst Kovacic he founded "impuls", a International Ensemble and Composers Academy for Contemporary Music. In 2004 he was awarded the Music Prize of the City of Vienna, and in 2005 became a member of the Academy of Arts in Berlin. He was awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale in 2006 for his work *FAMA*. In 2010 his music theatre *Wüstenbuch* was premiered in Basel. In 2014 he was awarded with Great Austrian State Prize. His latest opera *La Bianca Notte* based on texts by Dino Campana, was premiered in Hamburg in spring 2015. He is currently working on his new opera *Violetter Schnee* (Violet Snow) based on a Libretto by Vladimir Sorokin. Since the 1980s Beat Furrer has composed a wide range of works, from solo and ensemble music to orchestral and choral works and opera. He is well know for his nuanced exploration of the human voice and its relationship to instrumental sound.

London Sinfonietta will perform Furrer's *FAMA* at St John's Smith Square, London on Friday 11 November at 19:30.

Tickets: Concession price £5. Tel: 020 7960 4200

<http://www.londonsinfonietta.org.uk/fama>

A further performance of *FAMA* will take place at Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival on Sunday 20 November at 22:00.

<http://hcmf.co.uk>