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15 YEARS AUSTRIAN CULTURAL FORUM NEW YORK RELOADED

Sound Exhibition: Homages

APRIL 20–24, 2017

Austrian Cultural Forum New York

11 East 52nd Street, New York

Curated by Christian Scheib | Exhibition Design by Fränk Zimmer

APRIL 19, 4–11 PM: OPENING NIGHT

Rooftop reception and concert featuring the Talea Ensemble

FREE ADMISSION, [reservations required](#)

New York, March 21, 2017 – In celebration of the 15th anniversary of its iconic landmark building, the **Austrian Cultural Forum New York**, in collaboration with Austria's first contemporary music festival **ORF musikprotokoll im steirischen herbst**, presents the **sound exhibition Homages**. Opening on April 19 with a free all-evening event featuring the **Talea Ensemble** performing works by influential contemporary Austrian and American composers, *Homages* will be on view for a limited time only, until April 24, 2017.

Curated by **Christian Scheib** and designed by **Fränk Zimmer** of musikprotokoll, *Homages* features 15 newly composed or arranged recorded pieces by contemporary Austrian musicians, each paying tribute to one particular pivotal artist whose work was influenced by New York. The 15 commissions are spread throughout the unique architectural structure of the Austrian Cultural Forum New York, inviting visitors to explore all public spaces of the building designed by Austrian architect Raimund Abraham in 1992 and completed in 2002. Aided by sensory receivers and LED light boxes, the sound pieces are installed to be experienced privately through audio devices and headphones. Curator Christian Scheib describes *Homages* as “a quiet display of fireworks” in a city always on full volume; “a kaleidoscope of references emerges, relating as much about the Austrian artists as the artists to whom the reference is dedicated.” Between each installation, soundscapes from NYC and Graz, Austria will be audible, emphasizing the bridge between the two cities.

On the opening night, visitors have the rare opportunity to access the ACFNY's private rooftop terrace, where the **Talea Ensemble** with esteemed guest soprano **Juliet Fraser** perform a six-hour marathon concert. Symbolizing the heart of the Austrian Cultural Forum New York's mission of continuous cultural exchange, the powerful program features works by influential American composers John Zorn and Steve Reich as well as pieces by two of Austria's living titans, Olga Neuwirth and Beat Furrer.

After its run at the ACFNY, the sound exhibition *Homages* travels to the Stadtwerke-Haus in Graz, Austria, as part of **musikprotokoll**, organized in collaboration with contemporary art festival **steirischer herbst**. At musikprotokoll it will be part of yet another jubilee: as Austria's oldest festival for contemporary music, musikprotokoll celebrates its 50th edition with a ball featuring a dozen danceable world premieres in addition to other concerts on the festival program. musikprotokoll takes place from October 4 to 8, 2017, *Homages* can be experienced at Stadtwerke-Haus from September 24 to October 8, 2017.

HOMAGES FEATURED IN THE SOUND EXHIBITION

Homage à Philip Glass by Patrick Pulsinger
Homage à Yoko Ono by Andrea Sodomka
Homage à Morton Feldman by Peter Ablinger
Homage à Charles Mingus by Peter Herbert
Homage à Pauline Oliveros by Mia Zabelka
Homage à John Zorn by Max Nagl
Homage à Cyndie Lauper by Christian Fennesz
Homage à Grandmaster Flash & the Furious Five by dieb13
Homage à Maryanne Amacher by Bernd Klug
Homage à Robert Ashley by Bernhard Lang
Homage à Patti Smith by Olga Neuwirth
Homage à David Tudor by Demi Broxa (Agnes Hvizdalek und Jakob Schneidewind)
Homage à Jeanne Lee by Elisabeth Harnik
Homage à Laurie Anderson by Mira Lu Kovacs
Homage à Max Brand by Elisabeth Schimana

OPENING NIGHT ROOFTOP CONCERT PROGRAM

Talea Ensemble with guest soprano **Juliet Fraser**

Steve Reich: *New York Counterpoint* (1985)
John Zorn: *All Hallows Eve* (2012)
Olga Neuwirth: *Weariness heals wounds I* (2014)
Beat Furrer: *Lotófagos* (2006)

Set will be repeated throughout the evening.

ABOUT THE CURATORS

Born in 1961, **Christian Scheib** studied Music and Musicology in Vienna and Berlin. He was New Music Chief Producer at ORF/Radio Ö1 from 1993 to 2007, Head of Music Department at Radio Ö1 (2007–2011) and Head of Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna (2009–2014). He has been curating the festival ORF musikprotokoll im steirischen herbst since 1995. Scheib was a visiting lecturer at the School of Critical Studies at the California Institute of the Arts (1998), and lecturer for Music Aesthetics at the Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts. He has edited and written several books such as *das rauschen*, *Transfer - Metapher - Übertragung*, and *In the East - New Music Territories*.

Fränk Zimmer, born in Luxembourg in 1972, has lived in Graz since 1994. Since the 1990s he has explored the electric guitar and electronic musical instruments. He studied Telecommunications Engineering at the Lycée des Arts et Métiers in Luxembourg and Musicology at the Universities of Graz and Vienna. Since 2002 he has worked on numerous sound and media installation projects in public space and in art-designated spaces. He also acts as editor of several publications focusing on interweaving media art and applied social research. Zimmer is the producer and co-curator of the ORF musikprotokoll im steirischen herbst.

ABOUT MUSIKPROTOKOLL

ORF musikprotokoll im steirischen herbst is Austria's oldest festival platform for contemporary and experimental music. Functioning as a kind of laboratory, it invites the audience to embark on an exploratory journey to discover the latest developments and trends in music, with all the artistic risks that this entails. From orchestral music with the ORF Radio Symphonieorchester Wien to chamber music, from live performances to sound installations, musikprotokoll highlights a wide range of intriguingly heterogeneous forms and genres and presents works that are for the most part developed and produced specifically for the festival.

Dedicated to contemporary and experimental music and intermedia activities, the musikprotokoll program features key figures of current artistic trends and has, throughout the festival's long history, always placed Austrian positions in an international context.

Founded by Emil Breisach in 1968, musikprotokoll is organized annually by ORF (Austrian Broadcasting). It is a coproduction of its two stations, Radio Österreich 1 and Radio Steiermark, which broadcast the presented works in cooperation with the **steirischer herbst festival**.

ABOUT TALEA ENSEMBLE

The **Talea Ensemble** has been labeled "...a crucial part of the New York cultural ecosystem" by the *New York Times*. Recipient of the 2014 CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming, the ensemble has given many important world and US premieres of new works by composers including Pierre Boulez, Georges Aperghis, Olga Neuwirth, John Zorn, Unsuk Chin, Brian Ferneyhough, Beat Furrer, and Pierluigi Billone. Talea has performed at Lincoln Center Festival, Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt, Warsaw Autumn, Wien Modern, Contempuls, Newport Jazz Festival, Royaumont (France), and Art Summit Indonesia (Jakarta). Radio broadcasts of performances have been heard on ORF (Austria), HRF (Germany), and WQXR's Q2. Assuming an ongoing role in supporting and collaborating with student composers, Talea is the 2016-17 Ensemble in Residence at Columbia University and has been a guest ensemble at Harvard University, Stanford University, Ithaca College, Cornell University and New York University. Talea has recorded works on Wergo, Living Artists Label, Gravina Musica, Tzadik, Innova, and New World Records.

ABOUT THE AUSTRIAN CULTURAL FORUM NEW YORK

With its architectural landmark building in Midtown Manhattan, the Austrian Cultural Forum New York is dedicated to innovative and cutting-edge programming, showcasing the best of Austrian contemporary art, music, literature, performance, and academic thought in New York and throughout the United States. In addition to presenting three group exhibitions per year in its multi-level gallery space and housing around 10,000 volumes of Austriaca in its state-of-the-art library, it hosts over 100 free events per year in its own auditorium and supports at least as many projects at partner institutions across the nation. Visit www.acfny.org for more information.

Austrian Cultural Forum New York
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Open Daily 10 AM – 6 PM

Admission to exhibitions, concerts, and other events is free.

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