

Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart

Founded in 1984 as an ensemble for contemporary vocal music under the umbrella of Musik der Jahrhunderte, the Neue Vocalsolisten have been an artistically autonomous chamber music and music theatre ensemble since 2000.

The seven concert and opera soloists view themselves primarily as researchers and discoverers, collaborating intensively with both established and young contemporary composers. With a vocal range from coloratura soprano via countertenor to black bass, the ensemble examines new sounds vocal techniques, as well as forms of vocal articulation. Music theatre and interdisciplinary work with electronics, video, visual art and literature are as much a part of this research concept as a confrontation with elements of early and modern music. The partners of the Neue Vocalsolisten are leading specialist ensembles and radio orchestras, major international opera houses, the independent theatre scene, electronic studios, as well as numerous festival organisers and concert series for New Music all over the world.

In recent years, the ensemble has attracted interest internationally with music theatre productions such as *Freizeitspektakel* by Hannes Seidl and Daniel Kötter, with performances in Venice, Stuttgart, Madrid, Oslo and Warsaw; José-Maria Sánchez-Verdú's *Aura* in Madrid, Stuttgart, Venice, Berlin and Hamburg; Brian Ferneyhough's *Shadowtime* in Munich, Paris, London and New York; and Julio Estrada's *Murmillos de Paramo* in Stuttgart, Madrid, Venice and Mexico City. In addition, the Neue Vocalsolisten have taken productions in the genre of vocal chamber music theatre, whose development they decisively influenced, to many European countries, the USA and Argentina, performing works by composers including Oscar Strasnoy, Luciano Berio, Lucia Ronchetti, Luca Francesconi, Friedrich Cerha and Giovanni Bertelli.

Staged projects will continue to be a hallmark of the ensemble's work in 2014, with premieres of Dieter Schnebel's music theatre work *Utopien* and Nikolaus Brass's *Sommertag* at the Munich Biennale, as well as Simon Steen-Andersen's *Buenos Aires* at the Oslo Ultima Festival.

This year, over 30 concert tours will take the singers to Paris, Vienna, New York, Zurich, Viitasaari, Nicosia, Donaueschingen, Utrecht, Victoria and Los Angeles, among other places. The Neue Vocalsolisten will premiere over 25 pieces in 2014, including works by Salvatore Sciarrino, Günter Steinke, Mauro Lanza, Giovanni Bertelli, James Wood, Cathy Milliken and Sergej Newski.

Just how much the voice can be a carrier of individual expression and cultural identity was thematised by the Neue Vocalsolisten in their project Mediterranean Voices, premiered in February 2014 at the ECLAT Festival in Stuttgart. Its focus was the fragile identities of the Mediterranean region: twelve composers from twelve Mediterranean countries – from Spain to Egypt, from Morocco to Syria – each composed an a cappella work for the singers. The video artist Daniel Kötter travelled to their twelve home countries and captured the different situations of the respective artists and regions in over 100 video clips. The space for the video concert architecture, which continues to be used after the Stuttgart premiere in Madrid, Venice, Ghent, Montreal and numerous other cities, was designed by the Greek architect Sofia Dona.