

Steffen Wick belongs to a young generation of composers who are blurring the boundaries between different genres. He combines classical and contemporary stylistic elements into a modern, poetic sound language.

## Career

Steffen Wick studied composition under professor Caspar Johannes Walter, music theory, piano and new media at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart. He then went on to expand his composition studies in a master class with Moritz Eggert at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich and gained further artistic input from personal encounters with Steve Reich, Pascal Dusapin, Wolfgang Rihm and Detlev Glanert.

## Orchestration

Steffen Wick's concert works include all genres: from lavish scores for symphonic orchestras (such as *Womb*), chamber music (such as *Inner Monologue* for vocal quartet, a work commissioned by the Siemens Arts Program), to exotic combinations (such as the commissioned composition *Transborder* for Korean gayageums and European instruments).

## Performances

Steffen Wick's music has been performed at the Bregenzer Festspiele, the Wiener Musikverein, the Konzerthaus Berlin and Radialsystem V among others. Interpreters of his work include the Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, the Basel Sinfonietta, the Philharmonic Orchestras of Cottbus, Freiburg and Gießen as well as the »Eight Cellists« of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. Steffen Wick's compositions are published by Ricordi, Music Sales et al. and can be enjoyed live all over the world in countries such as China, South Korea, Canada, the USA, Finland, France, Spain and Ukraine. He has albums published by Sony Classical and Universal Music.

## Main Area of Interest

As a pianist, Steffen Wick focuses on the piano in particular in his works. In the Autumn of 2014, the *White* and *Blue* albums, on which grand piano and instrumental sounds merge with subtle electronics, were released as the start of the classical-electronic series PIANO PARTICLES. The visualization for the opening piece *Aero* by Stephen Malinowski/USA won the »Visual Music Award« at the Cocoon Club in Frankfurt, awarded by the Institute for Synesthesia and New Media Frankfurt. For the live concerts of PIANO PARTICLES, designer Marc Engenhart created a paper installation from several hundred paper particles, which was awarded the renowned »Red Dot Design Award«. Multiple-award-winning

choreographer Marco Goecke developed a dance performance of PIANO PARTICLES with the ballet ensemble of the Gärtnerplatztheater in Munich as well as dancer and choreographer Eric Gauthier with his company and Tarek Assam with Tanzcompagnie Gießen.

## Concert Projects

In 2008, the »video concerto« *Beyond Vision* was performed by the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra with a video installation at ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, phäno Wolfsburg, Kunstverein Stuttgart and the Museum für Kommunikation Frankfurt.

In summer 2009, the *Soundtrack Symphony* was performed as a spectacular open air concert on a floating stage in Heilbronn with over 200 performers, fireworks and a light show. In 2013, Steffen Wick was commissioned by the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts to compose music to silent films by film pioneer Georges Méliès for the Henschel Quartet. This was curated by filmmaker Edgar Reitz.

## Music Theatre

In 2012, the stage performance of Wick's music theatre *Musicophilia*, based on the homonymous book by Oliver Sacks, was deemed »particularly expressive« (Süddeutsche Zeitung). This production won the *Music Theatre Now* Prize from the International Theatre Institute in 2015.

His music theatre performance *Particles*, with influences from »physical theatre« and »nouveau cirque«, a work commissioned by Friedrichsbau Variété Stuttgart, premiered in February 2015 and was performed for more than 50 nights.

## Film

Steffen Wick composed the soundtrack for the cinematic documentary feature *Rheingold - Faces of a River* with Ben Becker and electronics by Simon Detel. For the 3D animated movie *Manou the Swift*, voiced by Kate Winslet and Willem Dafoe, Wick wrote new music for orchestra and adapted several PIANO PARTICLES songs. The film music received the German Film Music Prize in 2019 in the category »Best Music for Animated Film«.

## Awards

In 2011, Steffen Wick was a winner of the Bregenzer Festspiele composition competition. In 2013, Wick was presented the »German Cultural and Creative Pilot Award« by the German Government. In 2014, Steffen Wick received a residency at the International House of Artists Villa Concordia, 2015 at the Cité Internationale des Arts Paris and 2017 at the Künstlerhaus Salzwedel.

## Awards / Curriculum Vitae

### 2019

- German Film Music Prize in the category »Best Music for Animated Film« for *Manou the Swift* (together with Frank Schreiber & Simon Detel)

### 2017

- artist residency at Künstlerhaus Salzwedel, Germany

### 2016

- music theatre *Musicophilia* is a winner of the »Music Theatre Now« competition, announced by the International Theatre Institute with more than 450 international entries; presentation at Opera Dagen Rotterdam, Netherlands
- winner of the international RicordiLab competition, new author at Ricordi Berlin. The jury consisted of Kristjan Järvi, Liza Lim, Gillian Moore (director of music at Southbank Centre) and Dr. Clemens Trautmann (Präsident Deutsche Grammophon)
- European music author scholarship EMAS by GEMA for master class with Helmut Oehring

### 2015

- artist residency at Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris
- performances of *Musicophilia* in New York, Montreal and Helsinki
- *Particles*: music theatre-cabaret with 50 performances at Friedrichsbau-Variété Stuttgart

### 2014

- artist residency at the International House of Artists Villa Concordia
- full-length dance piece with orchestra commissioned by Theater Gießen
- CD release *Blue* of the PIANO PARTICLES project, published by Modul/Universal Music
- performances of *Musicophilia* in Shanghai and Lemberg (Ukraine)
- collaboration with choreographer Marco Goecke and the ballet company of Gärtnerplatztheater München

### 2013

- »German Cultural and Creative Pilot Award« by the Federal Republic of Germany
- grant from the Theodor-Rogler-Stiftung
- Music for silent films by Georges Méliès, commissioned by the »Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts« with the Henschel Quartet, curated by Edgar Reitz

## 2012

- commission by the Bregenzer Festspiele for dance project »Panta Rhei« with the Eight Cellists of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra at the Festspielhaus Bregenz
- commission by Meta Theater for music theatre *Musicophilia* based on the book by Oliver Sacks
- masterclass composition with Wolfgang Rihm
- commission by Gauthier Dance Company with 20 performances at Theaterhaus Stuttgart
- *Photos* and *Elegy* published by Sony Classical
- master of music with best marks, University of Music and P. A. Munich

## 2011

- winner of the Bregenzer Festspiele composition competition
- masterclass composition with Detlev Glanert, Berlin
- composition studies with Isabel Mundry and Pascal Dusapin
- diploma of music with best marks, U. M. P. A. Munich
- *Aero* and *Veil* published by Sony Classical

## 2010

- attendance of the NEXT GENERATION program at the Donaueschinger Musiktage with lectures by Georg Friedrich Haas et al.

## 2008

- completion of music theory and new media studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart, diploma with distinction
- composition studies with prof. Caspar Johannes Walter, U. M. P. A. Stuttgart

## 2005

- assistant for Michael Reudenbach at the »International Master Class for Young Composers« in the course of the Schloss Solitude Summer Academy, Stuttgart

## List of works

### Orchestra

- **Autobiography** for orchestra | commissioned by Staatstheater Cottbus & Basel Sinfonietta | first performance 11/17/2017 | Philharmonic Orchestra of Staatstheater Cottbus | conductor: Evan Christ | premiere Switzerland 02/02/2020 | Basel Sinfonietta | conductor: Peter Rundel
- **Crosscurrents** for orchestra and 12 brass players | commissioned by Theater Freiburg | premiere 12/06/2016 | Philharmonic Orchestra of Theater Freiburg and brass ensemble *bach, blech & blues* | co-composition with Florian Ross | conductor: Gerhard Markson
- **Womb** for orchestra | premiere 10/28/2013 | Symphony Orchestra of the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich | conductor: Prof. Ulrich Nicolai
- **Soundtrack Symphony** for large orchestra, choir and electronics | first performance 11/22/2006 | Symphony Orchestra & Choir of the University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart | premiere revised version | 07/11/2009 | commissioned by Klangfestival *StadtChorFluss* | Junge Süddeutsche Philharmonie Esslingen & Choirs of the Schwäbische Chorverband
- **Snap or Clap** for big band and orchestra | premiere 01/26/2006 | University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart | repertoire piece of the 17. International Carl von Ossietzky composition competition
- **End Titles** for orchestra | premiere 10/07/2005 | University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart | conductor: Steffen Wick

### Stage Works

- **Musicophilia** music theatre based on the book by Oliver Sacks | commissioned by Meta Theater | first performance 11/15/2012 | Reaktorhalle Munich | further performances: 2013 Munich / 2014 Radialsystem Berlin, Lemberg (Ukraine), Shanghai / 2015 New York, Montreal, Espoo (Finland) / 2016 Munich
- **Particles** music theatre performance with elements of physical theatre and cirque nouveau | commissioned by Friedrichsbau Variété Stuttgart | first performance 02/13/2015 | 50 further performances until April 2015
- **Johannes the Dreamer** for ensemble and speaker | commissioned by 13<sup>th</sup> »Esslinger Solistenforum« & Landesstiftung BW | premiere 11/09/2008 | Neckar Forum Esslingen | conductor: Bernd Ruf

### Chamber & Ensemble

- **Beyond Vision** for 18 solo strings and video installation | commissioned by the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra | first performance 12/03/2008 | Kunstverein Stuttgart | further performances: ZKM - Karlsruhe / phæno Wolfsburg / Museum für Kommunikation Frankfurt | conductor: Michael Hofstetter
- **Music for silent films by Georges Méliès** for string quartet, piano, voice & electronics | commissioned by the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts | Henschel Quartett, Steffen Wick (piano), Simon Detel

(electronics) | first performance 04/10/2013 | Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts, Munich | further performances: 2015 Villa Concordia - opening of short film days Bamberg | 2018 Rimusicazioni Film Festival Bozen, Italy

- **Lympha** for eight violoncelli | commissioned by the Bregenzer Festspiele | first performance 07/22/2012 | Festspielhaus Bregenz | Eight Cellists of the Vienna Symphony | further performances: 2013 Graz / 2014 Musikverein Wien
- **Kaleidoskop** for string quartet | commissioned by the Henschel Quartet | premiere 10/25/2019 | Allerheiligen-Hofkirche Munich
- **Scalae** for soprano, tenor, string orchestra, clarinet & marimba | commissioned by Sommeroper Bamberg | premiere 07/24/2015 | Villa Concordia Bamberg
- **Solitude** for woodwind quintet | premiere 08/22/2009 | Young Euro Classic Festival Berlin | Konzerthaus am Gendarmenmarkt, Berlin
- **Transborder** for three Korean Gayageum, piano and percussion | commissioned by the University of Suwon | first performance 06/22/2008 | Musikhalle Ludwigsburg | further performances: 2009 Seoul, South Korea
- **Central** for piano and alternatively clarinet, violin, violoncello or accordion | premiere 09/28/2010 | Theaterhaus Stuttgart
- **Perpetuum Mobile** for accordion and piano | premiere 06/05/2014 | Allerheiligen-Hofkirche Munich | Stefanie Schumacher (accordion), Steffen Wick (piano)
- **Aero** for alto and tenor recorder, viola, cello and piano | premiere 09/28/10 | Theaterhaus Stuttgart | SPARK ensemble
- **Consolation** for organ and percussion | premiere 02/07/2010 | town church of Göppingen
- **Reel & Reflex** for marimba and piano | premiere 10/17/2009 | Bethelkirche Stuttgart | further performances: 2012 China, 2013 Spain, 2015 USA & France
- **PIANO PARTICLES** for piano, electronics, voice and string quartet | 2013 Theaterhaus Stuttgart & Villa Elisabeth Berlin / 2014 Allerheiligen-Hofkirche Munich, Earls Court London & town church of Nagold / 2015 Volksbühne Berlin, Tübingen & Münster / 2016 Ravensburg & me Collectors Room Berlin / 2017 Kunsthaus Salzwedel

## Voice

- **Inner Monologue** for vocal quartet | commissioned by the Siemens Arts Program | premiere 01/10/2012 | Sophiensaal, Munich | Mauro Peters, Dorothea Spilger, Kathrin Filip & Florian Drexel
- **Confessiones** for choir, solo soprano, violin & organ | commissioned by the Münchner Oratorienchor | premiere 10/27/2012 | Erlöserkirche, Munich
- **Scalae** for soprano, tenor, string orchestra, clarinet & marimba | commissioned by Sommeroper Bamberg | premiere 07/24/2015 | Villa Concordia Bamberg
- **Confirmatio** for strings, choir and electronics; (announced by the Cultural Office Stuttgart | premiere 06/30/2006 | Stiftskirche Stuttgart | awardee at the composition competition Vers 1.2

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- **Tous les droits** for mezzo soprano, violin and piano | commissioned by the Franco-German Association | premiere 07/23/2006
- **Vom Dunkel zum Licht** for choir, organ and contrabass | commissioned by Esslinger Kammerchor | premiere 11/25/2007 | Minster St. Paul Esslingen

## Solo

- **Morph** for accordion | first performance 10/14/2014 | International House of Artists Villa Concordia | further performances: Kunstmuseum Rehau / Stadtmuseum München / Seildvilla München | Konzerthalle Bamberg
- **Perpetuum Mobile** for cembalo or organ | premiere 03/18/2011 | University of Music Munich
- **Solus** for organ | premiere 07/30/2008 | Stadtkirche St. Dionys, Esslingen
- **Aero Shred | Beo | Veil | Radices | Transit | Salto** for piano - performances as part of the PIANO PARTICLES project

## Dance

- **Inside the Pythagorean Theorem** orchestral composition for full-length dance theatre | commissioned by Theater Gießen | first performance 10/12/2014 | six further performances until January 2015 | Philharmonic Orchestra of Theater Gießen | conductor: Michael Hofstetter
- **Particles** music for ballet | commissioned by Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz | premiere 06/07/2014 | ballet company of Gärtnerplatztheater | choreography: Marco Goecke
- **Dance Particles** music for ballet | commissioned by Gauthier Dance Company | premiere 01/12/2012 | Theaterhaus Stuttgart | choreography: Eric Gauthier
- **Pantha Rei** music for community dance project | commissioned by Bregenzer Festspiele | premiere 07/21/2012 | Festspielhaus Bregenz

## Orchestrations

- **Arrangements of works by Richard Wagner** for concert band | commissioned by the Bavarian State Opera as part of the project *Wagner vs. Verdi* | premiere 04/28/2013 | Munich Opera Festival
- **Arrangements from Wagner's Tannhäuser** for soprano, live electronics and three keyboarders | commissioned by Siemens | premiere 05/25/2011 | Schloss Linderhof, Bavaria
- **Mozart's »zeroth« symphony** arrangement for orchestra based on the piano sketches of Sonata KV 15 p-r | premiere 01/21/2006 | University of Music & Performing Arts Stuttgart as part of the Mozart Year

## Film

- **Manou the Swift** music for feature-length animation film with Kate Winslet & Willem Dafoe | Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz | conductor: Joris Bartsch-Buhle
- **Rheingold - Faces of a River** music for feature-length documentary film | Ben Becker (narrator), Schnitzler Quartett