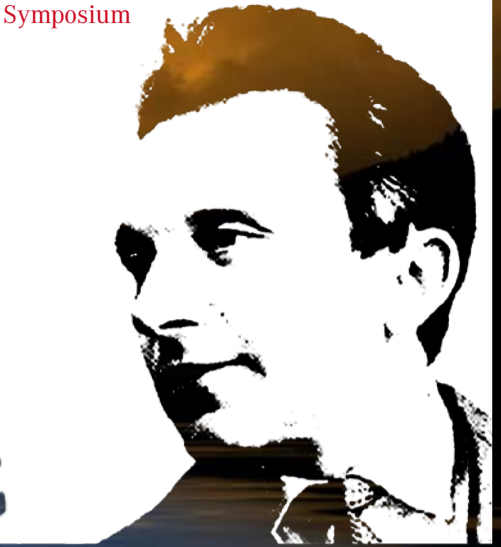




IN A STRANGE LAND

Weinberg
Opera | Concert | Symposium



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ANDEBERT

IN A STRANGE LAND...

The tragic story of *Aida*, a slave trapped in a foreign land, continues to thrill visitors to the Seebühne. For the brilliant but forgotten Polish composer, Mieczyslaw Weinberg, exile in the Soviet Union meant safety from the holocaust, and the chance to compose over 25 symphonies, 6 operas and much more. Bregenz 2010 mounts a major retrospective of this marvellous, accessible music: a voyage of discovery with hidden musical treasures as its goal! The Symposium will explore the composer's life and work.

Sat 31 July from 12.30 p.m. - Mon 2 August 2010

Price: 400 EUR
Festival Opera House

PATRON:

Michael Haas, music curator of the Jewish Museum, Vienna

PARTNERS:

The German-language opera magazine

„Opernwelt - Das internationale Opernmagazin“

The music publisher Peermusic Classical

The magazine „Osteuropa“

The price for participating in the Symposium includes brunch, lunch, coffee breaks as well as admission to five performances in the Weinberg retrospective. We are also happy to help with reserving accommodation.

TICKET ORDER

Bregenzer Festspiele GmbH,

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Mieczyslaw Weinberg (1919-1996) is regarded as the most independent-minded and important of all of Shostakovich's followers. His substantial output comprises ballets and operas as well as a large number of orchestral compositions and chamber music. Born to Jewish parents in 1919 in Warsaw, Weinberg studied piano initially in his home town. Immediately after his final exams in 1939, however, the Second World War broke out. Weinberg fled from the German invasion to Minsk in the Soviet Union, but his parents and his sister were later killed by the Nazis. In Minsk he continued his studies at the Conservatory until 1941; in 1943 he moved to Moscow where he completed further studies and then worked as a freelance composer and pianist. He also became a very close friend of the composer Dmitri Shostakovich. When Weinberg was arrested in 1953 after being falsely accused of propagating the founding of a Jewish republic on the Crimean peninsula, Shostakovich intervened on his behalf and helped secure his release.



„Many of my works are concerned with the subject of war. This, unfortunately, was not my own choice. It was dictated by my fate and by the tragic fate of my relatives. I see it as my moral duty to write about the war, about the atrocities inflicted on humanity in our century.“

Mieczyslaw Weinberg

Weinberg's Polish roots and the fate of his family, gave the subject of *The Passenger* powerful personal resonances. But his life in the Soviet Union had ambiguous aspects too. When Stalin initiated State Anti-Semitism in 1948, one of his first victims was Weinberg's father in law, Solomon Michoels, and Weinberg was himself arrested in 1953. Like many people who were chased out of Europe by the Nazis and then faced neglect and indifference in post war Europe, Weinberg too suffered from a type of double jeopardy.

David Pountney

PROGRAMME
Saturday, 31 July

9.30 a.m.
11.00 a.m.



Registration and Coffee Festival Opera House
 Performance *The Passenger* op. 97 Festival Opera House
 Opera by Mieczyslaw Weinberg.
 Libretto by Alexander Medwedew based on Zofia Posmysz's novella with the same title.
 In German und Russian language with German surtitles
 First staged performance
 Musical Director: Teodor Currentzis
 Director: David Pountney
 Stage: Johan Engels
 Costume: Marie-Jeanne Lecca
 Light: Fabrice Kebour
 Vienna Symphony Orchestra

In the early 1960s, a German diplomat is on an ocean liner bound for Brazil accompanied by his younger wife, Liese. She is aghast to recognise in a fellow passenger a woman she believes to be dead. Under the impact of this shocking encounter, she reveals to her husband for the first time that she was an SS Aufseherin in Auschwitz. From this point on, the location of the opera switches back and forth between the boat and Auschwitz, as Liese deals with the recollection of her ambiguously exploitative relationship with Marta, the Auschwitz prisoner, and her husband struggles with the revelation of his wife in an entirely new light.

2.00 p.m.

Lunch buffet Festival Opera House

7.30 p.m.



Premiere *The Portrait* op. 128 Kornmarkt Theatre
 Opera by Mieczyslaw Weinberg
 Libretto by Alexander Medwedew
 based on Nikolai Gogol's novella with the same title
 Musical Director: Rossen Gergov
 Director: John Fulljames
 Symphony Orchestra Vorarlberg

The Portrait, Weinberg's satirical opera after the short story by Nikolai Gogol, paints a telling picture of a corrupt art world. A talented but unsuccessful painter comes into possession of a portrait that is under a curse. He soon becomes a celebrated society artist: the rich and famous are at his feet, the money rolls in, he is invited to parties and is the talk of the town. Ownership of the portrait, however, causes him to betray his own art. When the painter realises this, he resorts to radical action.

Sunday, 1 August



The music of Mieczyslaw Weinberg will be featured prominently in the programme of orchestral concerts in 2010. Weinberg's oeuvre comprises six operas and a great many orchestral compositions. His musical language ranges from folk-like simplicity and late Romantic opulence to the explosiveness of Expressionism. The composer's experiences in the Second World War and in exile also had a profound influence on his work. The distinguished Russian conductor Dmitrij Kitajenko, who knew Weinberg personally, will conduct the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. Appearing as a guest orchestra in the retrospective is the Chamber Orchestra of the Novosibirsk Opera Musica Aeterna, conducted by Teodor Currentzis.

11.00 a.m.

Orchestral Matinee Vienna Symphony Orchestra Festival Opera House
 Conductor: Dmitrij Kitajenko
 Vienna Symphony Orchestra
 The Vienna Boys' Choir

Programme
 Mieczyslaw Weinberg: Symphony No. 6 for boys' choir and orchestra op. 79
 Mieczyslaw Weinberg: Requiem for soprano, children's choir, choir and orchestra op.96

4.30 p.m.

Meetings with the artists *The Passenger* and *The Portrait*
 with David Pountney, Alexander Medwedew, Zofia Posmysz and artists involved in the productions Seestudio

7.30 p.m.

Orchestral Concert Musica Aeterna Kornmarkt Theatre
 Conductor: Teodor Currentzis
 Chamber Orchestra of the Novosibirsk Opera Musica Aeterna

Programme
 Mieczyslaw Weinberg: Flute Concerto
 Mieczyslaw Weinberg: Sinfonietta No. 2 op. 74
 Sergej Prokofjew: Symphony No. 1 D-Major op. 25 – *Symphonie classique*
 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in g-Minor KV 550

9.00 p.m.

Aida Floating Stage/Festival Opera House

Monday, 2 August

10.00 a.m.

Weinberg-Seminar part 1 Seestudio
 David Fanning, Jens Hagedstedt, David Pountney,
 Manashir Yakubov a.o.

12.00 p.m.

Chamber music concert with Quatuor Danel Seestudio
 Mieczyslaw Weinberg: String Quartett No. 3 op. 14

12.30 p.m.

lunch Festival Opera House

2.00 p.m.

Weinberg-Seminar part 2 Seestudio
 David Fanning, Jens Hagedstedt, David Pountney,
 Manashir Yakubov a.o.

4.00 p.m.

Chamber music concert with Quatuor Danel Seestudio
 Mieczyslaw Weinberg: String Quartett No. 15 op. 124

7.30 p.m.

Orchestral Concert Musica Aeterna Festival Opera House
 Conductor: Teodor Currentzis
 Chamber orchestra of the Novosibirsk Opera Musica Aeterna
 Mieczyslaw Weinberg: Moldavian Rhapsody op. 47 No. 1
 Mieczyslaw Weinberg: Chamber Symphony No. 4 op. 153
 Ludwig van Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 op. 67

For the Opera on the Floating Stage (at 7 p.m.), the Opera House production, operetta, and orchestral concerts in the Festival theater, you can attend an introduction to the work in the Festival Opera House one hour before the performance begins. In German, Price: EUR 6



Zofia Posmysz



Zofia Posmysz's in Auschwitz



Auschwitz Concentration Camp



Auschwitz Concentration Camp