The New Austrian Sound of Music
2016/2017
The New Austrian Sound of Music - in short NASOM - is a long-term sponsorship program by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs (BMEIA), promoting young Austrian musicians for the fifth time in the two-year period 2016/2017.

The aim of NASOM is to offer support for international performances of promising young talents with the help of a global network of embassies, cultural forums and consulates. A further objective of NASOM is to draw more attention to the fact that Austrian music creation - beyond the traditional - is as vibrant, modern and culturally diverse as ever.

The young artists accepted for this program were selected in cooperation with the organization mica - music information center Austria and local music universities. Here once again, young emerging musicians from the genres classical, jazz, world, contemporary and pop music were chosen to participate in this sponsorship program.
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BartolomeyBittmann

The bridge that the two string musicians Matthias Bartolomey (cello) and Klemens Bittmann (violin, viola, mandola) draw in their diversified musical renditions, ranges from classically-oriented chamber music, through various sidesteps towards jazz, to accents of rock and pop. The two musicians share a deep love and respect for the sound of their instruments, as well as a strong passion for jointly developing new possible soundscapes. Equipped with playfulness, their compositions oscillate between powerful high-speed riffs, spontaneous improvisations, and dreamily restrained and soulfully played passageways. Not to mention, the special groove that this Styrian-Viennese duo manages to awaken with its classical instruments.

Matthias Bartolomey - cello
Klemens Bittmann - violin, viola, mandola

Website: www.bartolomeybittmann.at
Email: klemo@klemo.at
While the saxophone is commonly associated with jazz, the accordion is most often linked to folk music. What happens when the two instruments, which seem to be worlds apart, are paired up to a duo? In this unconventional formation, Michał Knot (saxophone) and Bogdan Laketic (accordion) breathe new life into classical and baroque music, the origins of which go further back than the history of these two instruments. This duo not only gives the well-known repertoire a unique touch, but also paints more recent compositions from Claude Debussy, Alban Berg and Krzysztof Penderecki in new acoustic colors. And why they call themselves Duo Aliada? This ringing name resulted from the similar sound production ("allied sound") of vibrating air through an accordion and a saxophone.

Michał Knot - saxophone
Bogdan Laketic - accordion
Website: www.duoaliada.com
Email: bogdanlaketic@gmail.com
Performances by Florian Feilmair are praised by the press as sovereign and full of nuances - a circumstance that is not a given for a pianist whose birth certificate marks the year 1989. His list of awards and solo performances with renowned orchestras is also unusually long: to name an example, the classical music award “Klassikpreis Österreich”, which he received for his performance of Ludwig van Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3, together with the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg. Besides enthralling audiences and press with solo performances of compositions by Haydn, Liszt, or Strawinsky, Feilmair makes a lot of music with his brother Philipp, a clarinet player. Together, they do not shy away from conventional musical boundaries. No matter what Florian Feilmair brings forth, his interpretations always bespeak artistic excellence and a well-considered refined approach.

Florian Feilmair - piano

Website: www.feilmair.com
Email: florian@feilmair.com
String quartets are not only known as composers’ top of the art, but also as a form of interpretation that requires peak performance of each of the four musicians. The Giocoso String Quartet has been playfully (English for “giocoso”) facing this challenge since 2003 and has made a name for itself as an upcoming hopeful with numerous awards and prizes. From Vienna, where the musicians receive advice and support from Johannes Meissl at the University of Music and Performing Arts, their path has led them from (Central) European competitions to the preselection of the International Chamber Music Competition in Melbourne, Australia. After their debut at the Wigmore Hall in London, one may well expect to see a lot more of these four musicians’ sophisticated performance skills on other continents in the future.

Sebastian Casleanu - violin
Teofil-Iustinian Todica - violin
Adrian Stanciu - viola
Bas Jongen - cello

Website: www.giocosostringquartet.com
Email: giocoso.sq@gmail.com
Trio Alba

Just as romantic as significant works for piano trios are, is also the name of Trio Alba, which is a play on the Italian word for sunrise or dawn, but the three musicians also have a special connection with the sunset, through the Swedish song „Se solen sjunker“ (in English: „Watch the sun set“), which inspired the second movement of Franz Schubert’s Piano Trio in E Flat Major. The German violinist Livia Sellin, the Austro-Italian cellist Philipp Comploi and the Chinese pianist Chengcheng Zhao met in Graz, where they are studying together and reached the finals of the international competition „Franz Schubert and Modern Music“. Two recordings have already been produced - both the CD with the two piano trios by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, as well as those with works by Joseph Marx have been awarded with the Ö1 Pasticcio Prize.

Livia Sellin - violin
Philipp Comploi - cello
Chengcheng Zhao - piano

Website: www.trioalba.com
Email: info@trioalba.com
David Six

David Six, most probably already a household name to connoisseurs of the young Austrian jazz scene due to his many participations in various projects (Mira Lu Kovacs/David Six, David Six’s Matador, Laura Winkler’s Wabi Sabi Orchestra), is a solo artist on the path of classical music crossing over to jazz, or vice versa, depending on one’s perspective. The composer and pianist artfully spans an arc between these two musical worlds, however, without ever becoming too obvious. It is precisely these blurred lines that add a special flair to his music.

David Six - piano

Website: www.davidsix.com
Email: david@davidsix.com
Edi Nulz consists of three jazz musicians that unmistakably bring along a heavy dose of rock music. The music of Julian Adam Pajzs, Valentin Schuster and Siegmar Brecher is far from any classical jazz structures. Besides the strong instrumental skills and the highly complex songs of the musicians, it is above all the driving energy in the playing style, melodies, harmonies and riffs that sets the music of this trio apart from traditional jazz, and is rather reminiscent of the prog-rock era in the 70s.

Siegmar Brecher - bass clarinet
Julian Adam Pajzs - guitar
Valentin Schuster - drums

Website: www.edi-nulz.com
Email: booking@edi-nulz.com
The musical universe of Laura Winkler is one of many colors, shades and facets. Together with her band, the Graz-born and currently Berlin-based singer and composer creates music that covers an extremely broad spectrum, which is quite unusual in the traditional jazz sense. Tinted with gentle jazz and folk elements, the songs of the young formation maneuver between wonderfully delicate and atmospheric lyrical moments, charming and dreamy exhilaration, ornate pop renditions and bittersweet melancholy.

Laura Winkler - vocals, DDR-harmonium
Stephen Molchanski - trumpet, beatbox, percussion, vocals
Fabian Kopp - mandolin, mandola, e-guitar, vocals
Lucas Dietrich - double bass, bass ukulele

Website: www.hollermydear.com/hollermyvier
Email: laura.winkler@gmx.at
Namby Pamby Boy

In 2003 the three young instrumentalists Fabian Rucker, Philipp Nykrin and Andreas Lettner came together with a plan to revolutionize the concept of classic trio format (saxophone, bass and drums) and add a fresh instrumental twist to the sound. As in their previous project [midshi], the trio followed a path blazed by various music forms that moved from the margins of classical jazz interpretations to more electronically tinged and experimental avant-gardistic sounds. The approach of Namby Pamby Boy is quite similar, with the difference that the three musicians now not only take inspiration from electronic music, but also from the fields of rock and hip-hop.

Fabian Rucker - saxophone
Philip Nykrin - keyboards
Andreas Lettner - drums

Website: www.nambypambyboy.com
Email: booking@nambypambyboy.com

Jazz
Treeoo impressively proves that modern jazz does not have to lose itself in excessive complexity to be interesting and challenging. In their joint project, Maximilian Tschida, Judith Ferstl and Andreas Seper consciously focus more on increased musicality rather than on avant-garde experiments. The main emphasis of this trio lies in the overall sound of the songs. Without ever overstepping the mark, Treeoo remains focused and has a clear vision of bringing out the essence. Mutual recognition is a key ingredient of this group, which provides the space and opportunity for the members to equally express themselves and have an active and lively interaction with each other.

Judith Ferstl - double bass
Andreas Seper - drums
Maximilian Tschida - piano

Website: www.treeoo-music.com
Email: j_ferstl@hotmail.com
Cobario

The roots of this instrumental acoustic project lie in Barcelona, where the two guitarists Mario Chehade (aka Rio Che) and Jakob Lackner (aka El Coba) used to perform as street musicians. In 2006 the violinist Herwig Schaffner (aka Herwegos) joined the duo and the trio Cobario was born. The music of the threesome is stylistically very diverse and unites influences from many different sound traditions. Thus, the songs of Cobario - who have in the meantime performed concerts all over Europe - include a strong orientation towards Spanish folklore, but also have many Irish, Oriental and Slavic influences. Garnished with elements of classical music, the compositions of this trio have a very unique lyrical vibe that invites listeners to lean back and let the music carry them away.

Georg Aichberger - guitar
Herwig Schaffner - violin, viola, piano
Jakob Lackner – guitar

Website: www.cobario.at
Email: management@cobario.com

World Music
It is already the rather uncommon combination of accordion, clarinet, percussion and vocals that lets Duo [:klak:] stand out from the crowd. However, it is not only the duo’s instrumentation that makes the music of the two Carinthians Stefan Kollmann (accordion) and Markus Fellner (clarinet, percussion, vocals) so special. Stylistically moving along the lines of tango nuevo, musette, klezmer and jazz, their impressive songs are perfectly melded together, as if by magic, with gentle and tense melodies pending between fragile melancholy and pure joy, the many different styles, the musical sophistication of the two protagonists and their ability to present music that is hauntingly beautiful, and at the same time an effortless elegance and a lot of soul.

Stefan Kollmann - accordion
Markus Fellner - clarinet, percussion, vocals
Website: www.klakmusic.com
Email: info@klakmusic.com
Those who are familiar with the many projects of Julia Lacherstorfer (ALMA, Neuschnee, Aufstrich, among others) and Simon Zöchbauer (Federspiel, among others) can perhaps imagine which direction these two musicians are heading with their music. Simple reproductions or copies of the already known are certainly not part of what they do. However, the two have never made a secret of their musical roots. Growing up with folk music, they have always played this style - maybe not necessarily conforming to the traditional, but rather with a willingness to step outside the musical box. Now performing as the duo Ramsch & Rosen, the musicians, originally from Upper and Lower Austria, go a step further with this approach. The duo artfully blends folk music with elements of various other musical forms and styles to create melodies that collide with the genres of jazz, classical and world music, lifting them from their original context with a refreshingly undogmatic touch.

Julia Lacherstorfer - violin, viola, vocals
Simon Zöchbauer - zither, trumpet, vocals, shruti box

Website: www.ramschundrosen.at
Email: info@divertedmusic.at
Sormeh

The trio Sormeh conjures up music that seems to defy all limits and contradictions. The ingredients used by Golnar Shahyar, Mona Matbou Rahi, and Jelena Popržan range from old Jewish songs in the form of chansons from the Levantine Sephardim, cabaret songs about musical traditions of the Balkans and South-East Europe, to sounds from the Orient, and are all translated into their own vivid and lyrical world music language. Adorned with occasional improvisations and tonal experiments, the resulting music creations are immensely colorful and multi-faceted, full of atmosphere and soul.

Golnar Shahyar - vocals, daf, berimbau
Mona Matbou Rahi - clarinet, vocals
Jelena Popržan - viola, vocals

Website: www.sormeh-music.com
Email: jelkabow@yahoo.com
The compositions of Square Waltz combine unique sounds that are rarely found in common musical concepts. Maria Salamon (violin, composition), Hannes Laszakovits (bass) and Marc Bruckner (clarinet, percussion) cover a vast range, perhaps even a limitless field, since they seem to draw their musical influences from any and all directions. Roughly speaking, the music of this trio can be settled somewhere between jazz, classical music and various forms of world music. Often with an added dose of traditional Viennese sounds, the band Square Waltz manages to create vivid and fiery music that is understood everywhere, no matter where it is played in the world.

Maria Salamon - violin
Marc Bruckner - clarinet, percussion
Hannes Laszakovits - double bass
Website: www.squarewaltz.at
Email: e_bass@mac.com
Anna Magdalena Kokits

Despite her young age, the pianist Anna Magdalena Kokits can already look back on an astounding career as a soloist, occasionally also in collaboration with orchestras such as the Lower Austrian Tonkünstler Orchestra and the Moscow Virtuosi. Her involvement with contemporary music is reflected in the close collaboration with composers Richard Dünser, Tomasz Skweres, Helmut Schmidinger, Thomas Larcher, Christoph Renhart and Lukas Havelböck, as well as in the fact that she has already commissioned several works. Kokits also has a passion for the lesser known: she has recorded the entire piano works of Ernst Toch, as well as compositions by Mieczysław Weinberg.

Anna Magdalena Kokits – piano

Website: www.annamagdalenakokits.com
Email: annamagdalenakokits@yahoo.de
At first glance the instrumentation of Duo Fre Do is quite classic with piano and flute — anything but traditional, is its repertoire with compositions from the recent past. Doris Nicoletti and Frederik Neyrinck have made their marks in contemporary music as members of renowned ensembles, however as a duo they have just come together this year. As a duo they embark on a search for the extension of sound (also with electronics), bringing their instruments beyond conventional concert forms into installation-based contexts and combine music with other forms of art. They extend existing repertoire with commissioned compositions and supplement material for their duo with creative adaptations of solo works.

Frederik Neyrinck – piano
Doris Nicoletti – flute

Website: www.frederikneyrinck.be/partituren/Duo_FreDo.pdf
Email: frederikneyrinck@gmail.com
Duo Ovocutters

Accordion and harpsichord - Duo Ovocutters consists of this truly unusual combination of instruments. Of course this evokes the question: is there a repertoire Sonja Leipold and Christoph Hofer can find for this originally baroque instrument in combination with the common accordion. The answer is: abundant. In addition to existing works from the present and the past, the duo has already been entrusted with several works from Austrian composers such as Matthias Kranebitter, Manuela Kerer, Dietmar Hellmich, or Sylvie Lacroix. A special mixture results from works for key instruments, from the baroque, through to early classical, to just recently created.

Sonja Leipold - harpsichord
Christoph Hofer - accordion

Website: www.ovocutters.at
Email: sonja.leipold@gmx.at

Contemporary Music
Mobilis Saxophonquartett

With the four representatives of the saxophone family, from bass to soprano, the musicians indulge in the homoge-
neous overall sound, as well in the uniqueness of this relatively young instrument. Playing on classical saxophones,
which significantly differ from jazz instruments, the quartet has dedicated itself since 2009 to contemporary works as
well as transcriptions of classical compositions. Besides the young quartet receiving the first prize of the competition
GRADUS AD PARNASSUM, the Ö1 Pasticcio Prize, and the Bank Austria Artist of the Year Award, the individual quartet
members - Michael Krenn, Janez Ursej, Yukiko Iwata and Goran Jurkovic - are already highly decorated. Just as interna-
tional as the origins of the musicians, is not only their program, but also their tour plans.

Michael Krenn - soprano saxophone
Janez Ursej - alto saxophone
Yukiko Iwata - tenor saxophone
Goran Jurkovic - baritone saxophone

Website: www.mobilis-saxophonquartett.at
Email: mobilis-4@hotmail.com
Schallfeld Ensemble sees itself as a free collective of soloists. The ensemble was formed from former students of the master-course “Performance Practice in Contemporary Music”, taught by the Klangforum Wien at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz. The artistic quality is therefore not only very high, in addition to the diversity of their cultural roots comes the manifold musical involvement of the individuals in various fields, such as contemporary music, jazz, classical music, performance or musicology. These rich sources are manifested in the ensemble’s numerous projects.

Eisa Azzará – flute
Szilárd Benes – clarinet
Myriam García Fidalgo – cello
Lorenzo Derinni – violin

Website: www.schallfeldensemble.com
Email: schallfeld.ensemble@gmail.com
Farewell Dear Ghost

According to his own words, bandleader Philipp Szalay originally had something else in mind for his band Farewell Dear Ghost. The intense and inspired work on his debut album brought up a lot of new ideas and directional changes, with the effect that the Styrian singer-songwriter ended up doing something else than initially intended - namely emo-tional and passionate indie pop with a lot of depth. Embedded in the warm overall sound of Szalay’s sound universe are delicate and lyrical melodies, as well as thoughtful and varied arrangements, which lead each song through tense twists and turns, before erupting into an atmospheric climax.

Philipp Szalay - guitar, vocals
Philipp Prückl - bass
Alex Hackl - guitar
Andreas Födinger – drums

Website: www.farewelldearghost.com
Email: reinhold.seyfriedsberger@inkmusic.at

Pop
Fräulein Hona stands for finest acoustic folk music with depth and feeling. The songs of the Vienna-based band have something very original about them, something very genuine and authentic, which in terms of depth is hard to find in the folk context. One can hear that this combo with the four musicians Kerstin Eckert, Melanie Künz, Johanna Schmid and Judith Prieler have a clear vision of their direction. With their sound being far from usual pop mass productions, Fräulein Hona manage to set their own accents in a very beautiful and refreshing style, no matter if with their increased tonal range, polyphonic vocal parts, or just their remarkably varied song structures.

Kerstin Eckert - vocals, guitar, piano, melodica, cajon, glockenspiel, flute
Johanna Schmid - vocals, guitar, piano, cello, ukulele
Judith Prieler - vocals, guitar, glockenspiel, cello, melodica, cajon
Melanie Künz - vocals, guitar, piano, cello, ukulele

Website: www.fraeuleinhona.com
Email: fraeuleinhona@gmail.com
HVOB (Her Voice Over Boys)

This duo belongs to one of the most exciting Austrian pop discoveries of the past few years. Appearing on the scene almost out of nowhere with the EP “Dogs” and a performance at the internationally renowned Melt Festival, HVOB (short for Her Voice Over Boys) became all the rage within a short period of time. And not just in this country. In the meantime, the band has released two further sensational albums: the self-titled full-length debut in 2013 and “Triology” in 2015. The delicate and melodic mix wrapped in warm electro-pop with club beats by Anna Müller and Paul Wallner, the two heads behind this exceptional project, effectively makes its mark without unnecessary frills, casting its spell over the listener right from the get-go.

Anna Müller - keyboards, vocals
Paul Wallner - keyboards

Website: hvob-music.com
Email: sebastian@fourartists.com
Kids N Cats

The music of Kids N Cats is quite unconventional and unexpected, but at the same is a pop concept that stays fresh in the mind and ears. The Viennese quartet popped up last year on the Austrian music scene almost out of nowhere and left a lasting impression. Kids N Cats offer a refreshingly different, very colorful and extremely casual pop, hip-hop, electro sound, which fortunately never gets lost in ordinary mainstream, but rather scores with a great deal of originality.

Jeanne Nickels - vocals, keyboards
Marten Kafke - guitar, keyboards, vocals
Peter Paul Aufreiter - keyboards, samples
Maximilian Atteneder – drums

Website: www.kidsncats.com
Email: home@kidsncats.com
Mynth

Mynth presents a pop concept of a different kind. Perhaps more than other acts in the electro-pop circus, the Salzburg duo ventures in more atmospherically charged and artistic climes. On the debut EP „Polar Nights“, the siblings Giovanna and Mario Fartacek keep the music more refined, treading a sonic path that leads in a rather minimalistic direction. Stylistically the music of Mynth covers various fields such as pop, electronic and trip-hop. With a restraint of tempo and great attention to detail, the songs of the duo have a melancholic and dreamy feel, slowly building up tension until they culminate in their final impressive form.

Giovanna Fartacek - vocals, keyboards
Mario Fartacek - keyboards, drum machine, samples

Website: www.mynthmusic.com
Email: mariocheck@hotmail.com

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Giovanna Fartacek - vocals, keyboards
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Website: www.mynthmusic.com
Email: mariocheck@hotmail.com