

Press release:

**The Concert as an Experiment: research group investigates psychological and sociological reactions of concertgoers with empirical methods - 28 Apr-06 May 2022
Radialsystem Berlin**

What do people actually experience during a concert? Why does music stir, inspire, and move us? In the large-scale "Experimental Concert Research" project, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, researchers and musicians are getting to the bottom of the concert experience for the first time. Concertgoers are given insights into this unusual research project and will be able to explore their experience of the concert as test subjects. Using a specially designed combination of methods, they are both wired and interviewed – thereby being actively and passively involved in investigating their concert experience.

For the past four years, a European research team has been developing experimental psychological and sociological measurement instruments that are now being used extensively. Following a "sneak preview" in September 2020 and opening concerts in the Pierre Boulez Saal in mid-April 2022, the almost ten-day concert series, sponsored by the Aventis Foundation, will take place in Radialsystem.

The internationally renowned chamber music ensemble Epitaph – violinists Baiba Skride and Gergana Gergova, violists Micha Afkham and Amihai Grosz as well as cellist Alban Gerhardt – and the distinguished up-and-coming Yubal Ensemble will perform string quintets by Ludwig van Beethoven, Brett Dean, and Johannes Brahms on a total of nine evenings at Radialsystem this spring. The musical program remains unchanged each evening; however, from one concert to the next, the same compositions are presented and dramatically altered in various ways – for example, through moderation, lighting design, audience participation, or a supplementary immersive level.

Experimental Concert Research

For two centuries, the classical concert has been a highly developed format of performance and reception. But which parameters of this ritualized process are critical to the concert experience and emotional immersion? Which are irrelevant, and which may even hinder it? "Experimental Concert Research" explores the potentials of experience the concert opens up as a specific form of performance and reception for certain music. The guiding question of the research project is: What defines the concert experience in a concert of classical music today?

Using a multi-method research design, this question will be investigated in the setting of actual concerts. By combining computer-assisted pre-and post-surveys and integrating physiological measurements and video recordings to analyze movement data, the interdisciplinary research team is able to analyze questions about the concert experience in a way that, to date, has been unique.

EXPERIMENTAL ■ ■ ■
CONCERT ■ ■ ■
RESEARCH ■ ■ ■

Seven different concert formats

Do different concert settings and formats lead to an altered emotional perception of music? The test considers a "classical" concert featuring an outstanding string quintet performing a mixed program in the usual order: Classical, Contemporary, Romantic.

From concert to concert, individual parameters are then changed, although the musical instrumentation and the selection of works remain the same: A moderator interviews the performers, and lighting design is added to match the different pieces; New music and romantic works are intertwined. The audience is invited to participate; the evening is given an overriding programmatic theme; a visual layer opens up associative spaces; a high-quality surround sound system slightly amplifies the ensemble.

Head of the Experimental Concert Research project: Prof. Dr. Martin Tröndle, Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen; Artistic Director: Folkert Uhde.

More information about the research project can be found at www.experimental-concert-research.org



EXPERIMENTAL ■ ■ ■
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Experimental Concert Research at Radialsystem

Thu 28 04 2022 19:30
Fri 29 04 2022 21:30
Sat 30 04 2022 19:30
Sun 01 05 2022 19:30
Mo 02 05 2022 19:30
Tue 03 05 2022 19:30
Wed 04 05 2022 19:30
Thu 05 05 2022 19:30
Fri 06 05 2022 19:30

Program

Ludwig van Beethoven: String quintet
op. 104 in C minor, first movement
Brett Dean: Epitaphs
Johannes Brahms: String quintet
op. 111 in G major

Performing Musicians:

Ensemble Epitaph
Violin **Baiba Skride**
Violin **Gergana Gergova**
Viola **Micha Afkham**
Viola **Amihai Grosz**
Violoncello **Alban Gerhardt**

Yubal Ensemble

Violin **Charlotte Chahuneau**
Violin **Larissa Cidlinsky**
Viola **Friedemann Slenczka**
Viola **Martha Windhagauer**
Violoncello **Raphaela Paetsch**

Tickets can be purchased online at www.radialsystem.de.

Yubal Ensemble

General audience: 12 Euro, reduced 8 Euro
Participants: 6 Euro

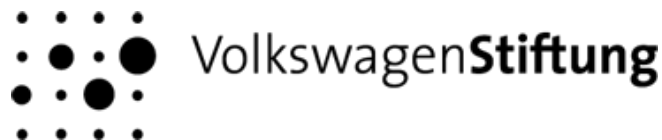
Ensemble Epitaph

General audience: 18 Euro, reduced 14 Euro
Participants: 6 Euro

Current hygiene regulations can be found at: www.radialsystem.de

Beginning for participants in the experiment is always one hour before the concert begins.

Experimental Concert Research is made possible by a grant from the Volkswagen Foundation.



The concert series is sponsored by the Aventis Foundation.

Aventis foundation

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