

Festival neue Musik Stuttgart

5. – 9. Februar 2025

16 events/projects live in the theatre

Selected events in the live stream, or time-delayed live on the ECLAT portal

www.eclat.org

Press release

Stuttgart, den 22. Januar 2025

36 artists from 22 countries have been invited to the upcoming ECLAT Festival. Together with excellent performers, they will organise 16 concerts, performances and concert installations and concert installations, including 25 world premieres - imaginative and rich in different genres, styles and formats.

Perceiving oneself in the context of global challenges leads to personal, often speculative, dystopian or hopeful artistic statements. It is about dealing with home, also from the perspective of exile, questions of identity, the search for the divine, inspiration from historical models, surreal projections of the future, garishly colourful and grotesque comics - and play(ing) as a moment of community, as a place of retreat, as a space of possibility. as a moment of community, as a place of retreat, as a space of possibility.

From **5 to 9 February, ECLAT 2025** will unfold in the halls of the Theaterhaus Stuttgart will unfold as a large, multifaceted narrative about our heterogeneous community, about the uniqueness of all individuals, their contradictions and fragility, their longings and doubts, but also about their dangers.

What artists appreciate about ECLAT is the freedom to set their own themes in the field of tension between absolute music, performative, multimedia or conceptual approaches - under ideal production conditions in Stuttgart's Theaterhaus.

Musik der Jahrhunderte always combines the facilitation of artistic goals with its responsibility as an organiser, because 'as artists, we can and must make a relevant contribution to cohesion in a stable democratic society', says artistic director Christine Fischer.

Out of the 'art bubble'

With a bang. Trilogy by Uwe Rasch

In his trilogy, which runs through the entire festival under various headings, Uwe Rasch relates various social aspects to music. These are 'visualisations of life situations' that are perhaps generally perceived as harmless, but whose harm is clearly recognisable. All three projects are based on documentary text material.

For **DSDL - DasSpielDasLeben. Vergrößerungen des Erfolgs/Nahaufnahmen**, Uwe Rasch conducted interviews with three Stuttgart residents in precarious life situations, far removed from the straightforward biographies of 'idealised upper-middle-class career planning' as in the parlour game 'Das Spiel des Lebens'. Uwe Rasch counteracts this concept with three different performances (with Pony Says and videos by Christopher Bühler, 5, 7, 9 February).

Uwe Rasch has constructed the **KinderStücke** (video performance) as an 'homage to unsorted children, who (must) learn to carry their parcels as they march through the institutions' (Neue Vocalsolisten, FSJ Baden-Württemberg volunteers, 9 Feb.) And **versprecher** für Countertenor was created by Uwe Rasch as a decoupling collection of promises circulating in the media: 'warm-hearted voices that are actually trying to kill someone'. (Daniel Gloger, Countertenor, 8 Feb.)

Anniversary Neue Vocalsolisten

Chamber music - 25 years of vocal chamber music

In 2025, the Neue Vocalsolisten are celebrating 25 years as a chamber music formation that has significantly shaped the genre of vocal chamber music theatre.

In ECLAT 2025, the seven singers will open their anniversary series with two concerts, which will run throughout the year.

Kammer-Spiele 1 presents world premieres by Stefan Pohlit, Tomoko Fukui, Uwe Rasch and Fernando Manassero, in which very personal perspectives on origin, identity, cultural tradition(s) and the present play a role (8 Feb.).

Kammer-Spiele 2 with world premieres by Luxa Mart*in Schüttler, Elena Rykova, Bernhard Lang and Kuba Krzewinski are presented by the Neue Vocalsolisten together with double bass clarinetist Theo Nabicht. A concert in which the political is expressed very evidently or subtly in musical structures (8 Feb.)

In the **opening concert of ECLAT** (5 Feb.), the Neue Vocalsolisten will perform Alex Paxton's 80-minute ensemble work *How to Eat your Sexuality together with Klangforum Wien* under the direction of **Vimbayi Kaziboni**: 'This is the best music I can imagine for an extraordinary collection of musical people. Singing as playing, listening as touching and harmony as life in a body. It has some gay parts too, I like them.' (Alex Paxton)

Music-Theatre- Installation/Performances

The Playing Man - Search for the Divine

The simple title **Children's Songs** by **Christian Winther Christensen** conceals a work for 7 musicians and a radio, composed of 'kitschy little figurations and quotations from the world of children's music'. Winther Christensen's composition was premiered in a shorter version at the Donaueschinger Musiktage in 2022 and developed into an independent 45-minute concert work for ECLAT. (Ensemble Ascolta, 5 Feb.)

The **ABC of exclamations**, created as a performative video sound poem, is based on the comic drawings of 18-year-old Kastyú Zhybul. Together with his mother, the Belarusian poet **Vera Burlak**, the highly gifted autistic boy has translated the 34 letters of the Belarusian alphabet into 'emotional exclamations'. Stuttgart-based animation filmmaker **Monika Nuber** brings the comics into motion together with Kastyú, embedded in a 40-minute electronic sound narrative by Greek composer **Georgia Koumará** (6, 7, 8, Feb.)

The ten sephirot are an essential part of Jewish mysticism as a symbol of the connection between the divine and human beings. They represent the different qualities and forces that are part of life and are linked together in the Kabbalistic tree of life. **Sarah Nemtsov** has approached these texts in a very personal way in her cycle of the same name, but has also counteracted things or formulated questions, because, according to the composer: 'in the end, they are just sounds. That's the most important thing'. (Ensemble Musikfabrik, Yaron Deutsch guitar, 6 Feb.)

Les Murs meurent aussi - music theatre by Francois Sarhan:

The conflict zones of the present day of the present are the starting point for François Sarhan's music theatre collage, an investigation based on testimonies, documentary material and video re-enactments. The unsentimental piece about walls, borders, territorial wars, appropriation and questions of identity will be performed by the Luxembourg ensemble **United Instruments of Lucilin** and four performers (7 Feb.)

Annesley Black, together with comic artist Katrin **Katrin Plavčák**, creates a thoroughly digitalised, post- or transhuman world with fantastic prototypes - 'cyborg wolpertingers' - in the electropop Digital Blood, who cannot simply shed their human heritage. In this surreal

setting, new music musicians meet rock musicians with Dadaist tendencies (Kinky Muppet, The Nubes, 8 Feb.).

SWR JetztMusik in ECLAT

The concert by the SWR Symphonieorchester with **Emilio Pomàrico** conducting (6 Feb.) features works by Johannes Maria Staud, Alberto Posadas and Elena Mendoza, all studies about the search for refuge or in-between spaces in a shaken world, about which Elena Mendoza says: 'In today's world, which suddenly feels dystopian due to the various crises, the idea of utopia has once again become vital for me.'

The **SWR Vokalensemble** with conductor **Susanne Blumenthal** and the **Saviet/Houston Duo** (Sarah Saviet, violin; Joseph Houston, piano) will perform works by Ulrich Kreppein, Zeynep Toraman, Younghee Pagh-Paan, Arne Gieshoff and Agata Zubel. It is about consolation, criticism, experimentation and harmony - and it becomes tangible, that the perspectives of contemporary composing have possibly never been more different than today. (7 Feb.)

Solo and chamber music

Founded in 2022, the young Frankfurt-based **Fabrik Quartet** has already made a name for itself at the most important new music festivals. The four musicians will make their debut at ECLAT with compositions by Bahar Royae, Zihan Wu, Kathrin Denner and Sebastian Claren. (8 Feb.)

For his ECLAT debut, Italian violinist and violist **Marco Fusi** brings a new work by **Timothy McCormack** for viola and a violin work by the master of silence, **Salvatore Sciarrino**. Thus, two stylistically very different, finely heard works for two instruments come together (8 Feb.)

The work of **ensemble mosaik** is always characterised by a desire for change. The ECLAT programme of the Berlin new music specialists includes works by Zara Ali, Haukur Þór Harðarson and Lucia Kilger, who explore the reality of life for the young generation in analogue-digital tightrope walks and at the same time boldly formulate utopias (9 Feb.).

ECLAT debutants and well-known players

Performing at the festival for the first time are United Instruments of Lucilin from Luxembourg, the Fabrik Quartet, Marco Fusi (violin/viola), the Saviet/Houston Duo, The Nubes and the real-time ensemble STUDIOS NEUE MUSIK from the HMDK Stuttgart.

Proven Stuttgart players in the festival are the SWR Symphony Orchestra and the SWR Vokalensemble, Klangforum Wien, Ensemble Musikfabrik, ensemble mosaik, Ensemble Ascolta, Pony Says - and the Neue Vocalsolisten, the ensemble of the festival organiser Musik der Jahrhunderte.

ECLAT Portal

'If you can create something, then you can cope better with the world,' says dramaturge Michael Zwenzner. He has conducted interviews with numerous artists about their works and performances (inspiration, background, making-of), which are published on the ECLAT portal, which offers background information and access to time-shifted recordings of seven events in addition to the festival website.

Cooperations / Partnerships

As always, the SWR Symphony Orchestra and the SWR Vokalensemble will each be represented with a concert at the festival (curated by Dr Lydia Jeschke, SWR Kultur). Another integral part of the festival is the prizewinners' concert for the Composition Prize of the State

Capital Stuttgart - this year as the finale of the festival. Works by the prizewinners from 2024 (Sara Glojnarić, Thomas Stiegler, Anda Kryeziu) will be performed.

Festival introduction

On Thursday, 30 January 2025 (18:30), Christine Fischer will give extra insights into the background and special features of the program in a Südseite Nachts Extra. Admission is free. Information on all events www.eclat.org

Tickets

Theaterhaus Stuttgart / Telefon +49 (0) 711 40 20 720 / Mail: tickets@theaterhaus.com

ECLAT Festival Neue Musik Stuttgart

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Artistic Director

Christine Fischer, Artistic Director Musik der Jahrhunderte

In cooperation with

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The concerts of the SWR Symphonieorchester Stuttgart and the SWR Vokalensemble are curated by Dr Lydia Jeschke (Head of New Music at SWR)

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