

# The Big Concert Night 2017

A unique and extremely successful cooperative relationship is being carried on and reinvented. Ars Electronica's Big Concert Night in collaboration with the renowned Bruckner Orchestra Linz is a jewel of the festival. There is hardly another such opportunity to experience such an intensive encounter of instrumental music-making and digital sounds, and of the music of the past and present. This year, Markus Poschner, the new conductor of the Bruckner Orchestra, will add a new musical wrinkle to this encounter amidst the huge *Gleishalle* (Track Hall) of POSTCITY. Poschner is also a superb jazz pianist and has invited several other soloists working in this genre to join him on his Big Concert Night. Classical orchestral music—the *scherzo* and *adagio* from Bruckner's 8th Symphony—jazz, sound art and digital visualizations will be presented on multiple stages set up throughout the *Gleishalle*, among which the audience can experience the evening's tonal realms in peripatetic fashion. Next up are the prizewinners in the Prix Ars Electronica's Digital Musics & Sound Art category. The third part of the program is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the ORF—the Austrian Broadcasting Company's—Ö1-Kunstradio.

## The Big Concert Night 2017 lineup:

- Bruckner Orchestra Linz (AT) conducted by Markus Poschner (DE)  
Soloists: Nguyễn Lê (FR/VN) (guitar), Hugo Siegmeth (DE) (reeds), Harald Scharf (DE) (bass), Bastian Jütte (DE) (drums), Markus Poschner (DE) (piano)  
Visuals: Cori Olan, Gil Delindro
- Digital Musics in Concert (Digital Musics & Sound Art winners Prix 2017): Cedrik Fermont (CD/BE/DE) and Dimitri della Faille (BE/CA) (Golden Nica), Lucas Abela (AU) (Award of Distinction), Marco Donnarumma (IT/DE) (Award of Distinction)
- Ö1 Radiokunst-Kunstradio, 30 years of radio art: Anna Friz (CA), Andres Bosshard (CH), Kristen Roos (CA)



Florian Voggeneder

Bruckner Orchestra Linz (AT)

## An Opening



Bremer Philharmoniker

Markus Poschner, Bremer Philharmoniker

At the center of the Big Concert Night in POSTCITY are the two middle movements of Anton Bruckner's 8th Symphony, the crux on which the entire performance hinges. This is right and wrong at the same time! Bruckner's music forms the foundation, the walls and perhaps the heavens too, in which audience members, situated in the middle of the *Gleishalle*, are free to move about. The listeners are in the center, in the arena, flanked on one side by Bruckner Orchestra Linz and on the other by a band of musicians including world-class guitarist Nguyễn Lê, Hugo Siegmeth (reeds), Harald Scharf (bass) and Bastian Jütte (drums). A symphonic space is to be configured about the audience, who will be able to shift locations, stay put and be receptive to sound arriving from all directions.

The interior of Bruckner's symphony will be opened up, commented on, reflected upon and thus made immediately accessible by those present. In this concert event, form and content are being renegotiated. This is the very nature of the Ars Electronica Festival, which, perennially on the leading edge, showcases the progress of visionary technologies, hosts a discussion, and considers them in a social context—the 2017 festival theme is Artificial Intelligence—The Other I. This is likewise the nature of this unique situation for auditory and visual experience in the *Gleishalle*, a railroad loading dock in a former postal service logistics facility, and, above all, of the setting and the dramaturgy that Markus Poschner and his



Tom Mesic

musicians have come up with. Poschner will lead his orchestra, but also segue to the band and have recourse to his piano's keys to improvise beyond, on and with Bruckner's sounds. But this is far more than commuting back and forth; these tonal strands are willingly drawn out of the symphony and keyed up in multiple perspectives. This is ultimately an endeavor at sensory experience in a space that differs from a conventional concert hall. Another space for another experiencing ego to thereby play an interesting variation on the festival theme.

Composer Hugo Wolf was overwhelmed by Bruckner's 8th Symphony. Following its premiere on December 18, 1892, in Vienna, he wrote: "This symphony is the creation of a giant and surpasses, in mental dimensions, in fertility and greatness, all of the master's other symphonies."

Markus Poschner, his band and the Bruckner Orchestra Linz are moving on into a new dimension. This concert marks the commencement of his tenure as chief conductor of the Bruckner Orchestra Linz. It certainly is to be understood as a declaration. An opening!

Guitar: Nguyễn Lê  
Reeds: Hugo Siegmeth  
Bass: Harald Scharf  
Drums: Bastian Jütte  
Bruckner Orchestra Linz  
Conductor and piano: Markus Poschner  
Visuals: Cori Olan

Text: Norbert Trawöger