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Press Release | Berlin, June 29, 2020



PIERRE BOULEZ
SAAL

Distance / Intimacy – A Festival of New Music with Ten Premieres from July 9–12

New Works by Widmann, Neuwirth, Pintscher, Manoury, Francesconi, and others
Curated by Daniel Barenboim and Emmanuel Pahud

The Pierre Boulez Saal is making a bold artistic statement in the current crisis: at the invitation of Daniel Barenboim and Emmanuel Pahud, 10 of today's most fascinating composers have engaged musically with the Corona pandemic. On four consecutive evenings from July 9–12, each program starting at 6 pm CET, new works by Jörg Widmann, Olga Neuwirth, Matthias Pintscher, Irini Amargianaki, Philippe Manoury, Luca Francesconi, Benjamin Attahir, Michael Jarrell, Johannes Boris Borowski, and Christian Rivet will be premiered online. Live on ARTE Concert and on YouTube, Daniel Barenboim and Emmanuel Pahud will discuss art in times of crisis with the composers, musicians, and surprise guests. All participating composers and musicians have waived their fees.

Composers have always reacted with particular sensitivity to changes in their environment. How do they come to terms with the current situation? What sonic potential is inherent in the distance regulations? What creative tensions arise from the simultaneous intimacy of the elliptical Pierre Boulez Saal and the forced distance of the musicians? What are the results of composing for a space without an audience? To put it briefly: how will the year 2020 go down in music history? From July 9 to 12, a Festival featuring 10 world premieres will seek answers to these questions. All works were written specifically for the unique performance situation in the empty Pierre Boulez Saal. Each of the compositions enters into a dialogue with a work by Pierre Boulez. Performers include Daniel Barenboim, Emmanuel Pahud, Sarah Aristidou, Michael Barenboim, Yulia Deyneka and musicians of the Boulez Ensemble.

The participating composers and musicians have made their work and time available to the Pierre Boulez Saal free of charge in order to set an example for the importance of an animated musical life. The live events will be freely available on ARTE Concert and boulezsaal.de. Following the four-day festival, the new works will be available on the website for one month. All listeners are invited to show solidarity with the arts and to support musical life, including freelance musicians, music students, local orchestras, or concert halls. The Pierre Boulez Saal website provides a list of national and international support initiatives.

Daniel Barenboim: "I am happy and proud that all these great composers have reacted so quickly and with so much enthusiasm to our idea. At the moment, not a day goes by that I do not ask myself how we can emphasize the value of music for us as individuals and as a community. How do we manage to secure for the future the riches I found in music as a child? For this we need the determined action of politicians. But my experience as a musician also shows that art speaks most convincingly for itself: when we have the opportunity to express our pain and insecurity and touch the deepest layers of our humanity."

Emmanuel Pahud: "Without curiosity, you shrivel,' Pierre Boulez once said. It is therefore

exactly the right time and the right place for such a project: in these times when many of us lose our bearings, it is worth listening to these great composers. They are experts in both: distance and intimacy. They need distance and isolation to develop their creativity, and at the same time they come very close to us with their art. Therefore I am very much looking forward to the new compositions at our festival, to the different sounds they monitored in this unfortunate situation. It is a privilege to work with so many brilliant musicians – constructively, with fun, joy, and confidence in the future. I send a heartfelt hug to everyone involved.”

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A Festival of New Music Distance / Intimacy

9–12 July 2020

Premieres by Jörg Widmann, Olga Neuwirth, Matthias Pintscher, Irimi Amargianaki, Philippe Manoury, Luca Francesconi, Benjamin Attahir, Michael Jarrell, Johannes Boris Borowski, and Christian Rivet

Works by Pierre Boulez

The events can be viewed free of charge on ARTE Concert and on the Pierre Boulez Saal website

www.arte.tv
www.boulezsaal.de

Downloads:

- [Biographies and Titles of New Works](#)
- [Daniel Barenboim | Foto: © Silvia Lelli](#)
- [Emmanuel Pahud | Foto: © Josef Fischnaller](#)

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