

Helmut Rogl

Born in Enns (Upper Austria) in 1960, Helmut Rogl had piano lessons from an early age. Following first compositions as an autodidact, he then started studying composition at what was at the time the Bruckner Conservatory in Linz, learning from Helmut Schiff and Gunter Waldek. Later, he studied at the "Mozarteum" in Salzburg with Helmut Eder. Parallel to his music studies, he studied business at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz and received his PhD, thus now living a dual view of the world between arts and business or avocation and profession.

He was awarded the "Talentförderungspreis" of the federal state of Upper Austria in 1984, the cultural prize of the city of Linz in 1989 and the same city's cultural medal in 1999 as well as the "Landeskulturpreis" of Upper Austria in 2001. Dr Alice Ertlbauer-Camerer wrote in her laudation for that: "In the jury's opinion, Rogl features a solid composition technique – which can not at all be taken for granted nowadays – as well as an instinct for musical form. Even Rogl's early-performed chamber works already show a clear voicing that enables the listener to understand his music. In this sense, Rogl is an exponent of the polyphonic style that has a tonal centre.

His œuvre ranges from solo pieces to orchestral and stage works. Up to now, he wrote more than 50 compositions which show his openness towards all musical genres and some of which were commissioned by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, the Wiener Chamber Symphony, the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, the Bruckner Orchestra Linz, the Budapest String Soloists, "Pro Brass" and the Chamber Orchestra Diagonal. Yet in all diversity, there is a focus on vocal music, the cello and also the saxophone: as a solo instrument, the saxophone quartet, with piano or as an instrument in the orchestra. This CD for the first time has all chamber works with saxophone on one recording.

Special highlights of Helmut Rogl's life as a composer include the premiere of the cello concerto in the Vienna Konzerthaus, his contribution for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Mauthausen concentration camp (the oratorio "Memento" for solos, chorus and orchestra as well as actress Erika Pluhar as narrator) and the opening music for the 2002 Brucknerfest: "Beginnt das Saitenspiel!" His song cycle "Ihr Lieder mein!" (WP 2008) on poems by various European poets was premiered on the verge of the European cultural capital year of Linz.

Additionally, Rogl is open towards electronic music: Especially his collaboration with Manfred Pilsz resulted in a multi-award winning series of music videos. In 2005, he was responsible for the sound design of the project "Heartbeat" at the Ars Electronica festival. Dr Ertlbauer-Camerer concludes in her laudation: "With new genres like music videos, electronic music and sound installations, Rogl conquers a new type of audience outside the traditionally narrow circle of classical music lovers. In order to broaden the acceptance of classical music, he treats 'his' audience with respect and attentive interest. For him, it is more important to impress and to enchant them rather than to provoke or shock."

Keine Sorgen Fantasie

This work happily combines Helmut Rogl's two worlds: business and music. His daytime job as Head of Marketing at the Oberösterreichische Versicherung AG is dedicated to the company and its slogan "Keine Sorgen" (no worries), which now also enters his second world. Josef Strauß' famous Polka *Ohne Sorgen* (without worries) is now seconded by Rogl's work on carefreeness, following the Strauß tradition that shows that art can be pleasant ...

The piece was premiered in a matinée concert at the Brucknerhaus in Linz celebrating Helmut Rogl's fiftieth birthday, which coincided with the 200th anniversary of Austria's oldest insurance company. This work for alto saxophone and piano is dedicated to Dr Wolfgang Weidl, the company's long-standing CEO, and combines humour, joie de vivre and an easy-going lifestyle.