

Recycling Concerto



The topic of environmental destruction dominates this moment in time.

In particular we must urgently decide what to do about our trash, waste and poisonous materials.

The composer and conductor Gregor A. Mayrhofer saw this as an opportunity to address the issues in a musical way and composed a concerto for recycled percussion and orchestra dedicated to the young percussionist Vivi Vassileva: The ***Recycling Concerto***.

Various new percussion instruments were developed for the piece, all made from recycled materials. Nothing new is purchased - all percussion sounds are created only from discarded materials that would otherwise go to waste.

The "sound material" for the solo instruments consists of foils, plastics, recycled glass, scrap metal - all these materials that would only burden our planet receive a new life and meaning in the *Recycling Concerto*.

Used plastic containers become drums, discarded glasses and bottle caps become shakers, used coffee capsules turn into rustling chimes.

However, these materials that we would normally consider trash can create more than just rhythm, they can even be transformed into melodic instruments.

Used plastic bottles can be tuned by air pressure through a valve in the lid, becoming a kind of *recycled marimba*.

The *Recycling Concerto* aims to involve host cities and areas in the musical creative process, so that specific regional waste issues are integrated into each performance. Local collections can be arranged to gather rubbish for individually adapted instruments and as a result, locally recycled materials can be used for the concert.

Several excerpts of the concerto can also be performed as solo percussion pieces which can be used to establish the topic of recycled waste in an educational context, for example in schools or education outreach events. Together with the soloists of the *Recycling Concerto*, young people can learn how to build their own instruments out of rubbish and expand their musical horizons.

Performances

World premiere (as part of the [composers' portrait of BASF Kultur](#))

16th and 17th of June 2021 - Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz Ludwigshafen

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Gregor A. Mayrhofer

Finnish premiere

9th and 10th of September 2021 - Lahti Symphony Orchestra

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Dalia Stasevska

Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen

4th of February 2022 - Weikersheim

5th-7th of February 2022 - Reutlingen

8th of February 2022 - Coesfeld

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Alexander Liebreich