

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

- **4th of Feb. 2022** Reutlingen - Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen (World premiere)

- **7th - 11th of Feb. 2022** Reutlingen/Coesfeld/Lahr

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Alexander Liebreich

- **19th of June 2022** Aldeburgh Festival - Britten Sinfonia (UK premiere)

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Gregor A. Mayrhofer

- **22nd of September 2022** Klangspuren Schwaz (Austrian premiere)

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Gregor A. Mayrhofer

- **30th of March 2023** Residentie Orkest Den Haag (Dutch premiere)

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Anja Biehlmaier

- **10th of May 2023** Munich Symphony Orchestra (Prinzregententheater)

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Gregor A. Mayrhofer

- **9th of September 2023** Dresden Philharmonic

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Duncan Ward

- **8th and 8th of November 2023** Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Krzysztof Urbański

- **23rd of September 2023** Norwegian Radio Orchestra Oslo (Norwegian premiere)

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Gregor A. Mayrhofer

- **30th of August 2024** Musikkollegium Winterthur

Soloist: Vivi Vassileva, Direction: Gregor A. Mayrhofer