



# Cultural Winter

## 2011

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## 2012

# Singing on the water

## Gregorian chant in the Therme

**Saturday, 10. December 2011**

**22.30 | in the Therme**

**Sunday, 11. December 2011**

**07.30 | in the Therme**

——— Grazer Choralschola conducted by  
Prof. Franz Karl Praßl

### ——— Gregorian chant

Listening – immersion in sound and space – feeling and absorbing, what lies behind the sounds: for hundreds of years this approach of open ears and open senses defined the contact with the Gregorian chant, which has been one of the prevalent forms of liturgical singing in churches across the western world since the days of Charlemagne. Born out of listening and meditation, this music deals with the central question of human life from the perspective of the Christian holy scripture. Water is one such central life issue. It enables life, cares for well being and better quality of life. Its absence generates thirst. There is also thirst for life, the thirst for love, freedom and peace. Surrounded by water we will be singing about water and what is related to it: chants, which are simultaneously bound to time and timeless, that can ideally evoke a feeling of adoration for the era. The threatening aspect of water can be heard alongside the saving and redemptive aspects. The beauty of linear music for one voice, born entirely from the word, will flourish in a place that is ideal for it with its archaic structures: in the sheltering and yet open cube of the Therme.

### ——— Grazer Choralschola

Since 1992 it has worked in Graz as a special ensemble for Gregorian chant and has been committed to the interpretation of this music according to the oldest sources of the 10th century, as can be found in Switzerland in St. Gallen and Einsiedeln amongst others. The Schola sings according to the medieval practice in mixed composition according to perceptions of Gregorian semiology, which delves into the oldest European notations with regard to performance practice. The ensemble have played concerts in numerous European countries, plus in Israel and in the USA and have taken part several times in important festivals (Watou, Vác, Haapsalu, ION [International Organ Week] ION Nuremberg, Styriarte, etc). Numerous recordings are available, including the complete series of all introit chants with the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF. The conductor of the Schola, Franz Karl Praßl, is professor for Gregorian music at the University for Music and Performance Art in Graz. His main academic focus lies on performance practical research into Gregorian music, plus studies in music and liturgy of the 12th century. He has led guest professorships, workshops and summer schools in many European countries, in China and in the USA. He is associate editor of the *Graduale Novum* 2011.

# Musical reading

## Highlights around the turn of the year

**Saturday, 24 December 2011 | Christmas Eve  
17.30 | in the old swimming pool  
Christmas reading with music**

**Thoughts and stories for the holidays**

—— Astrid Keller: reading (German only)

—— Goran Kovacevic: accordion

A musical and literary dialogue between Astrid Keller, conductress of the See-Burgtheater in Kreuzlingen, and Goran Kovacevic, professor for accordion and chamber music and virtuoso in the well-known Dusa orchestra. The pair of them performs jovial and tranquil, spirited and melancholic pieces. They guide over a wide scope of German literature, from Brecht, Hesse and Eichendorff over to Wohnmann, Pluhar, Fried and Hüscher up to Lassahn. The musical framing stretches from Scarlatti to Mozart, Bach and Piazzolla up to Ernst Bloch.

—— **Astrid Keller**

born in 1956 in Schaffhausen, she attended the University for Music and Performance Art in Vienna. Appearances and roles in film and theatre followed at the Stadttheater St. Gallen, the Schauspielhaus Zürich, the Stadttheater Bern and the Stadttheater Constance. Since 1994 she has been freelance and founded the See-Burg theater in Kreuzlingen. She is involved in guest appearances at the Neumarkt theatre in Zurich and in the Staatstheater Hanover.

—— **Goran Kovacevic**

Born in 1971 in Schaffhausen he studied from 1991-1999 in the state University for Music in Trossingen with Prof Hugo Noth. Master classes with S. Hussong (Salzburg), I. Battiston (Florence), F. Lips (Moscow), I. Koval (Weimar) and J. Mace-rollo (Toronto) added to his artistic training. Goran Kovacevic is a prize winner in several international competitions, and amongst other he received 1st prize in 1991 and 1993 with Coupe Suisse de l'Accordéon, plus 1st prize in the International Summer Academy "Mozarteum" in Salzburg (1994).

**Friday, 6 January 2012 | Epiphany  
18.00 | in the old swimming pool  
Sound and Silence**

—— Daniel Mezger: reading (German only)

—— John Wolf Brennan: Piano, etc

Daniel Mezger reads from "Stein und Wasser" [Stone and Water] and from his novel "Land spielen". The issues revolve around urban and country views, the language is musical and rhythmic. With these books but also between them, John Wolf Brennan sounds the unheard and striking, loud and soft tones, proactive and contrapuntal, making a further dramatic tie, sensing the room between the lines, hearing and feeling the poetry of pauses, without a syntactical beat, semantically romantic, guided but free. Text and music follow independent paths, are playfully complimentary, opening eye and ear.

—— **Daniel Mezger**

was born in 1978 and grew up in Linthal (GL). He studied drama in Berne, appeared on the stage in Göttingen for many years, then switched to writing. Since 2004 he has lived and worked as an author, actor and musician in Zurich. From 2006 to 2009 he studied at the Swiss Literary Institute in Biel. He was invited with his pieces to diverse festivals (Berlin Stückemarkt, Heidelberg Stücke-markt, Werkstatttage an der Burg). In 2007 he was nominated for New Play write of the Year. "Findlinge" won the 2010 prize for Writing of Plays of the Swiss Society of Authors (SSA). With an extract from the novel "Land spielen" he was invited to last year's reading of the Bachmann prize. This year Daniel Mezger is the writer in residence at Therme Vals and has written the text for "Stein und Wasser Glocken" [stone and water bells].

—— **John Wolf Brennan**

was born in Dublin, Ireland and grew up in Central Switzerland. After his degree in Fribourg (in Music, German studies, Film) at the University of Music in Lucerne, CMS New York and RIAM Dublin, he acted as a pianist in various ensembles and composed numerous works (two operas, orchestral, chamber and vocal music amongst others) and released solo piano albums, most recently "The Speed of Dark", including the free meandering "Suonen" sounds and precise smoothed miniatures: "Auf Valserspfaden".

# vals glocken locken

## Sound installation on the subject of bells

by John Wolf Brennan

**Friday, 10 February to Sunday, 19 February 2012**  
**daily from 04 pm to 08 pm | in the old swimming pool**  
**Live events within the sound installation**

**Friday, 10 February 2012**  
**18.00 | Vernissage and opening**

—— John Wolf Brennan: solo piano

**Sunday, 12 February 2012**  
**18.00 | Sound concert**

—— Christian Zehnder: voice, overtone singing,  
Global-Jodel, string instruments

—— John Wolf Brennan: piano, melodica, harmonium

—— Arkady Shilkloper: horn, flugelhorn, alphon

**Sunday, 12 February 2012**  
**11.00 | Matinee**

Panel discussion on the topic of “bells” accompanied by the Zehnder-Brennan-Shilkloper trio

**Sunday, 19 February 2012**  
**11.00 | Matinee (Dernière)**

**Musical reading**

What is in, what is out? *vals glocken locken* is both at the same time: musical guess work and acoustic labyrinth, in which you gladly become lost and disappear. Inner and outer vectors of the thematic word field Glocken form the central axis of this sound installation that fills the room by John Wolf Brennan.

Stone and water, mountain and wind: the place Vals with its side valleys is included as the topos in the exhibition, but at the same time refers to a non-place (u-topia), which leads and misleads, characterises by counterpoint and transcends our sense of perception as it were. Bell sounds of the St. Peter and Paul Vals parish church, the Zervreila- and the Frunt chapel meet each other and merge with cow bell sounds from Alp Tomül and the Glaspas to an overall sound. Through various, carefully filtered sound sources and noise fragments, which John Wolf Brennan has collected from the outside world, *vals glocken locken* binds that from the real life thermal bath room literally in the sky again with everyday life. Various live performances with well-known musicians and a panel discussion add to the installation and offer a sustainable, synesthetic experience, which appeals to all senses.

—— John Wolf Brennan

The “piano poet” (NZZ on Sunday) was born in 1954 in Dublin, Ireland. His studies guided him through the University of Music in Lucerne, to Dublin, Berlin and New York. Today he lives in Central Switzerland and from there he works internationally as a pianist and composer. Brennan is renowned for his precision, creativity and speed in switching between genres and formation, but in particular for his literary inspired, poetical, pianist excursions. His piano music tells cleverly built, exciting stories. On his solo album “Pictures in a Gallery”, which was recorded live in Rosengart Museum in Lucerne and in St. Petersburg, he sets the paintings by Picasso, Klee, Kandinsky, Miró and Cézanne to music. Art and literature are his passion. For his complete works up to now Brennan was acknowledged in 2008 with the UBS Recognition prize. In 2009 his newest solo piano work “The Speed of Dark” was released. In spring 2010 the Museum of Art in Lucerne in the Culture and Congress Centre Lucerne displayed the video and sound installation “Inner and Outer Spaces”, which he created together with Susanne Hofer.

—— Christian Zehnder

Vocalist, voice artist, yodeller or overtone singer? All of this may be true for him and still he wants to be the individual Swiss musician, who's diversity cannot be classified. Between new alpine, jazz and contemporary music, he has held his ground successfully on the international stage for quite some time. Be it with his individual projects (Stimmhorn, Kraah, amongst others) or with various international formations. Christian Zehnder is regarded with his continual further development of European overtone vocal techniques and the non verbal “Global Jodeling” as one of the most creative and innovative minds of this scene.

—— Arkady Shilkloper

was born in 1956 in Moscow. He studied Flugelhorn at the Moscow Military Academy of Music and was a member of the orchestra at the Bolshoi theatre and the Bolshoi brass quintet from 1978 to 1985. Since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, he has worked as a solo artist and since 1991 appeared on stage together with Mikhail Alperin and Sergey Starostin in the Moscow Art Trio. Working together with various well-known musicians and orchestras.

# Music in the old swimming pool

## Special finds from the world of sound

**Friday, 24 February 2012**  
**18.00 | In the old swimming pool**  
**Kappeler-Zumthor**

— Vera Kappeler: piano  
— Peter Conradin Zumthor: drums

Vera Kappeler's musical home are these old folk songs, from the Alps or the Finnish Tundra, shipped over here on earthly grooves in twenty first Century. And Peter Conradin Zumthor, who we know as the wrathful master drummer in latently border bands like Azeitrop. Should these two form a duo? Absolutely. Because the result of this combination is not a milder average of these playing positions, but rather the expression of their common basis: music formed from heavy darkness, carried, hymn like shapes in dreamed slow motion, which clings to a Schubert loop or is held by rattling iron chains to the ground. Poetry hails here like the olden times: occasionally Kappeler and Zumthor can be in the mood to dance or to joke, but straightaway they are back to work with calm seriousness: and at latest with the chimes ringing the last melody fragment, you know again, why you actually like to listen to the deeply saddening music.

— Vera Kappeler

born in 1974 in Basel. She studied piano at the Academy of Music in Winterthur and graduated with a teaching certificate. She took lessons as well at the Jazz School in Basel and discovered her love of folk songs, old blues and chansons. The pianist gave concerts with various projects, such as her own trio, her solo program, and the duo "Kappeler.Zumthor". In 2008 she was awarded the advancement award of the city of Winterthur plus the ZKB jazz prize.

— Peter Conradin Zumthor

Peter Conradin Zumthor writes music for theatre and installations and tours in various formations across Switzerland, Germany, Slovenia and Croatia. He is a member of the African-Swiss drum quartet "Beat Bag Bohemia" and in the "Steamboat Extended Ensemble". With his innovative and exceptional music, Peter Conradin Zumthor is on his way onto the national and international stage and has been a regular contributor to the cultural program at Therme Vals.

**Friday, 23 March 2012**  
**18.00 | In the old swimming pool**  
**Jazz concert – Scent of Jungle**

— Martin Dahanukar: trumpet  
— Vinz Vonlanthen: guitar  
— Samuel Joss: double bass  
— Peter Horisberger: drums

"A stone's throw out on either hand, from that well-ordered road we tread, and all the world is wild and strange.." (Rudyard Kipling)

In the music of Martin Dahanukar, modern jazz joins together with Far Eastern sound colouration. The classic acoustic sounds of the double bass and trumpet contrasts with the electrical spheres of the guitar and urban drumming. The jungle as a border area between traditional conventions and the emotionally unfamiliar glimmers in the pieces of the new album "Scent of Jungle".

— Martin Dahanukar

He was a graduate of the Jazz School in Lucerne. Born in Munich into a Swiss-German-Indian family, he was brought up in Bombay, Zurich and Berne. From 12 he learnt to play the electric guitar and then the trumpet. Since the age of twenty he has continually taken part in concerts across the whole of Switzerland and abroad. His discography of the past eleven years comprises of six records under his own name.

— Vinz Vonlanthen

A graduate of the Swiss Jazz School in Berne. He caused a furore with the bands Aventure Dupont and Urban Safari in the 1990s on numerous concerts in Europe and overseas. Today he is a lecturer at the University for Music in Lausanne.

— Samuel Joss

A graduate of the Swiss Jazz School in Berne. Diverse collaborations with leading exponents of the Swiss and foreign jazz scene. Samuel Joss plays regularly in the Blue Hall in the Hotel Therme Vals.

— Peter Horisberger

Graduate of the Swiss Jazz School in Berne. Thanks to his stylistic range he has already inspired various Swiss bands afield between Be- to Free-bop & beyond.

# Literary Easter Excursion

## Cheerful and tranquil at Easter

**Sunday, 8 April 2012 | Easter Sunday**

**18.00 | in the old swimming pool**

**Musical reading** (German only)

The actress Astrid Keller reads stories and poems by Johann Wolfgang Goethe, Kurt Tucholski, Joachim Ringelnatz, Martin Suter, Bertold Brecht, Marie Luise Kaschnitz, Eduard Mörike, etc. She will be accompanied by the pianist Hans Galli.

### — Astrid Keller

born in 1956 in Schaffhausen, she visited the University for Music and Performance Art in Vienna. Appearances and roles in film and theatre followed, at the city theatre in St. Gallen, the playhouse in Zurich, the city theatre Berne and the theatre in Constance. Since 1994 she has been freelance and founded the See-Burgtheater in Kreuzlingen. She is involved in guest appearances at the Neumarkt theatre in Zurich and in the theatre in Hanover.

### — Hans Galli

Hans Galli, born in 1957, near Wil SG. High school and primary school teaching diploma, after graduating with a music degree at the Academy of Music in Schaffhausen with major in piano (Christian Spring) and minors in voice (Marcela Tomes) and composition (Klaus Corneli). After the teaching certificate, he gained further study at the University of Music in Zurich with Daniel Fueter and Ruth Hiltmann. His musical activities focused on the area of contemporary music and he worked as an accompanist. He taught at the Educational Academic High School in Kreuzlingen and the Educational University in Thurgau.

# Music in the Blue Lounge

Daily from 06 pm to 07 pm and 09.30  
to 12 midnight

## Thu | 1 December 2011

- Jérôme de Carli: piano
- Samuel Joss: bass
- Andreas Bugs: guitar

## Fri | 2 December to Sat | 3 December 2011

- Jérôme de Carli: piano
- Andreas Bugs: guitar

## Sun | 4 December to Sat | 10 December 2011

- Rahel Hadorn: vocals
- Mario Scarton: piano

## Sun | 11 December to Sat | 17 December 2011

- Beatrix Hauri: piano
- Wege Wüthrich: saxophone

## Sun | 18 December to Fri | 23 December 2011

- Christoph Baumann: piano
- Luca Sisera: double bass
- Valeria Zangger: drums

## Sat | 24 December to Fri | 30 December 2011

- Regina Litvinova: piano

## Sun | 1 January to Fri | 6 January 2012

- Beatrix Hauri: piano
- Samuel Joss: double bass

## Sat | 7 January to Wed | 11 January 2012

- Daniel Erismann: trumpet
- Antonello Messina: accordion

## Thu | 12 January to Sun | 15 January 2012

Trio Volare

- Stephan Urwyler: guitar
- Daniel Erismann: trumpet
- Samuel Joss: double bass

## Mon | 16 January to Sat | 21 January 2012

- Martin Dahanukar: trumpet
- Jérôme de Carli: piano

## Sun | 22 January to Thu | 26 January 2012

- Mark Koch: piano

## Fri | 27 January to Tue | 31 January 2012

- Michael Dubi: double bass
- Roman Tulei: piano

## Wed | 1 February to Wed | 29 February 2012

Vlado

- Vladislav Giza: piano

## Thu | 1 March to Wed | 7 March 2012

- Stephan Urwyler: guitar
- Regina Litvinova: piano

## Thu | 8 March to Wed | 12 March 2012

- Thomas Sauter: guitar
- Daniel Schläppi: bass

## Tue | 13 March to Sun | 25 March 2012

- Elan Mehler: piano
- Tod Hedrick: double bass
- Max Goldman: drums

## Mon | 26 March to Fri | 30 March 2012

- Elan Mehler: piano
- Tod Hedrick: double bass

## Sat | 31 March to Sun | 8 April 2012

- Elan Mehler: piano

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**Therme Vals**

CH-7132 Vals

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Telefon Therme

0041-(0)81-926 89 61

Telefon Therapie

0041-(0)81-926 88 21

E-Mail Therme

[therme@therme-vals.ch](mailto:therme@therme-vals.ch)

E-Mail Therapie

[therapie@therme-vals.ch](mailto:therapie@therme-vals.ch)

Web

[www.therme-vals.ch](http://www.therme-vals.ch)

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**Hotel Therme Vals**

CH-7132 Vals

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Telefon

0041-(0)81-926 80 80

Fax

0041-(0)81-926 80 00

E-Mail

[hotel@therme-vals.ch](mailto:hotel@therme-vals.ch)

Web

[www.therme-vals.ch](http://www.therme-vals.ch)

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