

Daniel Schnyder – Biography 2005/06

Daniel Schnyder is known as a composer/performer with a dynamic reputation in both jazz and classical fields. He recorded over ten CDs of his own music for Enja Records, Koch Jazz, CCnc, Universal, Arabesque and Red Records. As a performer Daniel toured and recorded with many well known classical musicians, world music artists and jazz artists.

Daniel was born 1961 in Zurich, Switzerland and lives in New York City. His orchestral works and his chamber music compositions have been performed and recorded all over the world. Among his credits as a composer are commissions to write compositions for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra in New York, the Tonkuenstler Orchestra in Vienna, the Radio Symphony Orchestra in Berlin, The Norrlands Operan in Sweden, the Chicago Sinfonietta, the Vienna Art Orchestra, the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich (4th Symphony, commissioned by David Zinman), the Opera of Bern ("Tempest" by Shakespeare), the NDR Orchestra in Hannover, the NDR Big Band in Germany, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the New York based new music group "Absolute Ensemble" under the direction of Kristjan Jaervi (Bass Trombone Concerto for David Taylor) and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra among many others.

The Album "Absolution" (Enja Nova) featuring Daniel Schnyder's Trombone Concerto received a Grammy nomination for "Best Classical Small Ensemble Recording" in 2002.

Daniel toured Europe and Australia with his trio, featuring David Taylor and Kenny Drew jr., playing music of Gershwin, Bach, Vivaldi, Wagner and Ellington in addition to his own new compositions bridging the worlds of classical music and jazz.

He frequently performs with his special chamber music project for saxophone and string quartet, combining composition and improvisation, jazz and traditional chamber music. His third string quartet was commissioned by the Carmina Quartet.



Daniel appears as a soloist with orchestras playing his "Songbook for Saxophone and Orchestra" and other works. He plays the work in Germany and Switzerland on a tour with the NDR Radio Philharmonic in November 2006.

His chamber music works have been performed by many famous artists like Emmanuel Pahud, Eroica Trio, Schweizer Klaviertrio, Carmina Quartet, David Jolley, David Taylor, Graham Ashton Brass Ensemble etc.

He also writes orchestral variations on themes by non classical music icons like the Rolling Stones, Duke Ellington or Jimi Hendrix, picking up on a 19th century tradition designing whole programs for orchestras outside the mainstream concert format – as played by the Calgary Symphony, the Absolute Ensemble, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

As an arranger/composer he produced albums for jazz artists Abdullah Ibrahim ("African Suite"), Lee Konitz ("Tribute to Billie Holiday") and Paquito D'Rivera ("Habanera", Enja Records). He also worked with Simon Shaheen, Peter Herbert, Burhan Oecal, Jing Jang, Marcel Kalife and Jamey Haddad on a variety of projects, merging Arab music and Chinese music elements with jazz and classical music.

In 1997 Schnyder was commissioned to write the opening orchestral piece for the official inauguration of the renovated concert hall of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Andreas Delfs, who also premiered his Piano Concerto and his 1st Symphony. Subsequently the orchestra commissioned Schnyder to write "The Revelation of St. John", a large scale work for chorus, symphonic forces, organ and soloists that was premiered with great success in February 2001 and had its European premiere in Barcelona in 2005 by the Liceu Orchestra and chorus under the direction of Sebastian Weigle.

Marc Tardue premiered Schnyder's Violin Concerto, his Trumpet Concerto and the 2nd Symphony. The NDR Symphony under the direction of K. Jaervi recorded these pieces in the fall of 2002 for Enja Nova, featuring trumpeter Reinhold Friedrich.

In 2005 Schnyder's Opera "Casanova" was premiered at the Yehudi Menuhin Festival with Wolfgang Holzmair in the lead role. Casanova will get its American premiere in December 2005 in N.Y.C. with Russell Brown singing Casanova.

Daniel Schnyder just finished a new version of the uncompleted masterwork "Zaide" by W. A. Mozart, that will be premiered under the direction of K. Jaervi in New York City.

Two concerti for ethnic instruments, his Pipa Concerto and his Alphorn Concerto, were premiered in the 2005/6 season. Daniel Schnyder wrote also a concerto for the libanese Nay virtuoso Bassam Saba.

Daniel Schnyder won the first prize at the 1996 International Trumpet Guild's Composition Contest. His trumpet sonata was selected as one of the official pieces for the Concours Maurice André pour Trompette 2003 (Paris). He won also numerous awards for his chamber music by the International Flute Association, the International Clarinet Association, the City of Zurich, Pro Helvetia, the National Art Council of Switzerland, the American Symphony League and Meet the Composer. He is a composer with Universal Edition's "Spectrum Series" and the composer in residence with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. His stay with the MSO was made possible by a grant from Meet The Composer and the American Symphony League.

Together with Ingo Goritzki he is leading the Stuttgart Crossover Academy and gives masterclasses in composition, chamber music and creative solutions and ideas in classical music and jazz.

For more information, a database of his compositions and some links go to:

www.danielschnyder.com / www.enjarecords.com

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Recent CDs:

Jazz: "Da Skale" (TCB Records): Kenny Drew / Daniel Schnyder Quartet

Classical: "Colossus of Sound" (enja NOVA) feat. NDR Orchestra, Reinhold Friedrich (tp), Kristjan Jaervi (cond)

Chamber music: "Zoom-in" (Universal)