



New Music for Music Students

Polish Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej host their own annual New Music Festival. The opening concert was aimed at young people, aged 13-19, attending music schools.

Background

The name of the ensemble, Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej, means off course „New Music Orchestra” - and explains itself. Founded in 1996, this chamber ensemble was formed by students at the Music Academy of Katowice. Today, the orchestra consists of both graduates and students giving a powerful balance between youth and experience.

The Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej is hosting its own annual festival, the New Music Festival in Bytom. Being an ensemble of young people Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej is concerned with the challenge of engaging a larger audience to contemporary music – and not least with maintaining a young audience. The tools for this includes workshops for children, concerts for students, and in the NewAud project Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej wanted to explore other tactics for unlocking new music to more people.

Concept

This concert was the opening concert for the annual New Music Festival.

The target audience was young people, aged 13-19, attending music schools. Contemporary music is not so popular even among music students. They do not commonly study pieces written in recent times. Only few teachers, enthusiasts of contemporary music, introduce them to the concept of new music. Therefore, the ensemble believes that it is necessary to deepen their understanding.

The concert took place in the concert hall of Szymanowski Secondary Music School in Katowice. The biggest and most renowned in the region of Silesia. However the ensemble also addressed the young audience among pupils of other music schools in nearby cities. They organized the event very close to the target group and offered free admission to the concert.

A pre-concert lecture was offered half an hour before the concert, helping the audience to deepen their understanding and appreciation of the contemporary music, with the emphasis on works to be performed at the concert. The lecture was given by Anna Sieminska, a young, gifted and very engaged teacher, author of a popular children’s music book.

The ensemble wanted to create a special atmosphere by extraordinary lighting, so the familiar concert hall looked completely different. The ensemble invited a group of pupils from the music

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school to help with the evaluation of the concert (for example handing out papers). A few members of the orchestra work at the school, so it was easy to select pupils and engage them in the project.

Process

One piece, by the Polish composer Maciej Zieliński, was commissioned by the orchestra. It features a soloist with a demanding part. Violin player, Katarzyna Duda was invited to play the solo part. She was recommended by the composer himself.

Promotion

In order to draw attention to other concerts during the festival (also in other cities), the ensemble offered a free CD with their recordings, for those who liked them on Facebook and attended two concerts during the festival.

Facts

Ensemble: Orkiestra Muzyki Nowej (17 musicians involved, one soloist: violinist Katarzyna Duda)

Conductor: Szymon Bywalec

Date: November 15th 2013

Venue: Zespół Państwowych Szkół Muzycznych, Poland

Programme:

Bank Sary: *Timebells*

L'ubica Salamon-Cekovska: *Postludium*

Further information: <http://omn.art.pl/>