

„Henning Sieverts' Hexacor“

I am very glad to present **my current double CD "Henning Sieverts' Hexacor"** – during one intensive year I have composed the music and am happy with the result!

In the winter of 2012/13 I was commissioned to organise **the "TONSPUREN" festival 2014 at Kloster Irsee (Bavaria)** as **artistic director and composer**.

It was like "Christmas": I was given plenty of scope in every way: in the choice of musicians involved and in the design of concert formats (four in total) for the weekend of 25-27 April 2014.

And there was enough budget: not only to fly in my favourite jazz musicians from New York, Paris, Luxembourg and Cologne, but also for a **string orchestra of 18, the wonderful "Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Augsburg" under the direction of John X. Schachtner**.

The **jazz soloists were really an absolute "dream team"** featuring **Loren Stillman (as), Sylvain Rifflet (ts, clar), Florian Weber (p, organ, melodica), Pascal Schumacher (vibes, marimba), Francois Thuillier (tuba), Jochen Rückert (drums) and John Hollenbeck (dr)**.

We had one week to rehearse, to get to know each other and **have lots of fun together!**

The festival weekend then was a **complete success, all concerts were very well attended or sold out. The Bavarian Public Radio recorded the entire "TONSPUREN" festival** – you can now listen again to the opening concert in the colonnade or in the ballroom of the monastery and the **grand finale in the monastery church** on the double CD "Henning Sieverts' Hexacor"!

Here are some excerpts from the enthusiastic newspaper reviews on the grand finale: "It lasted for one and a half hours, the final concert of the `TONSPUREN´ festival in the monastery church in Irsee. But **in this timespan the audience was bombarded with such a wealth of musical ideas and brilliant realisations** that one could get the impression to have spent much more time in the fully booked chapel. **This is music between this world and the hereafter (...)** Thunderous applause ended the equally appealing and sophisticated festival.“ (*Allgäuer Zeitung*)

One can get a good impression of the **unique atmosphere** at the "TONSPUREN" festival through the **many photos in the CD booklet**, and many more can be found at **www.tonspuren.de**.

The double CD "Henning Sieverts' Hexacor" was released by the label "petit paquet records" and costs 19 euro. It can be ordered at www.henningsieverts.de or www.tonspuren.de

Another important note: CD 1 ("The Church Concert") is located in the RIGHT pocket of the booklet, CD 2 ("The Monastery Concert") in the LEFT one.

Thoughts on “Henning Sieverts’ Hexacor”

“TONSPUREN” is German for „sound tracks“ or – more poetically: Traces of Sound. However, there is another connotation. „Ton“ also means clay, earth. I am interested in the layers of earth that have been deposited over hundreds of years at the monastery Kloster Irsee near Kaufbeuren in the German state of Bavaria – layered pages of history written in the earth.

Above all, I am interested in uncovering the foundations of the religious devotion and contemplation that has been nurtured for over 600 years, as well as the more recent layers when Irsee became a psychiatric institution in the 19th century. In particular, the abuse and murder of the patients during the Nazi period has left a narrow, dark layer.

Today, Kloster Irsee is a bright, friendly center for study, gatherings and music. Sounds continue to push their way up through the older strata of Kloster Irsee, especially the music from the Renaissance and the Baroque periods. In April 1614, exactly 400 years before TONSPUREN 2014, Abbot Carolus Andreae and his confrere Gregor Stemmele composed a glorious mass for the festival of Saint Benedict. The mass was originally performed in the abbey church.

I have chosen two elements from this festive mass, a cantus firmus and a hexachord, and incorporated them as leitmotifs in my own compositions. They permeate my Irsee music in every creative form possible.

26 musicians are involved in "Henning Sieverts' Hexacor": 18 strings of the "Bavarian Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra Augsburg" and 8 jazz soloists.

The jazz soloists sometimes act as an octet, sometimes they face each other as a double quartet, but sometimes also as four pairs of twins: two saxophones, two melodic instruments (piano, vibration/marimaphon), two bass instruments (tuba, double bass/cello) and two drums.

The whole building of the monastery (with its colonnades) and the church (with its galleries) vibrate with the music, sometimes the musicians move around playing in the different locations and so they draw their traces of sound.