

Tristan Xavier Köster

Composer & Cellist

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Tristan Xavier Köster (b. 1993) is a Los Angeles born composer currently living in Hamburg, Germany. Working with ensembles and musicians in predominantly acoustic settings, Tristan is inspired by the abstract emotive capabilities of music and its ability to be radically interpreted by performers and listeners alike. Searching to exhibit a new “colloquial” sound in the contemporary classical medium, Tristan thinks of himself as a musician constantly improvising and searching for an unheard, yet intuitive, way to approach an instrument or ensemble.

Education

- 2015-present Hamburg Hochschule für Musik und Theater: Masters Degree in Music Composition
Primary Instructor: Xiaoyong Chen, Secondaries: Manfred Stahnke, Frederik Schwenk
- 2011-2015 University Of Southern California: BM in Music Composition (summa cum laude)
Primary Instructors: Frank Ticheli, Stephen Hartke, and Donald Crockett
- 2010-2011 Pre-University Instruction: A.J. McCaffrey

Commissions

- 2018 Mirror Strings Quartet (Simone)
- 2017 The Shanghai Symphony Orchestra (too much ego.)

Hamburg Symphony/Hamburg Hochschule für Musik (I am because you are)
- Tonali 17 Festival (Gelobt sei der Horizont)
- 2016 Trio Catch (Memory Fragments II)
- 2015 Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra/Shanghai Conservatory of Music (The Empty City Stratagem)
- The Varied Trio (Memory Fragments I)
- 2014 Los Angeles Artist Mark Dutcher (Die Badende)
- 2012 The Soundscape Performance Exchange

Awards

- 2017 Tonali17/Sikorski Festival Recognition (top three composer DACH Region)
- 2016 BMI William Schuman Prize “most outstanding score 2016”

Finalist ASCAP Awards
- 2015 Summa cum Laude, USC Thornton School of Music
- 2014 Finalist ASCAP/BMI awards
- 2011 USC Thornton School of Music “Deans Scholarship Fund recipient”

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Festivals || Fellowships || Projects

- 2017 Shanghai Conservatory Theory Congress: “Serialism in China” January 9-12, 2018
 - Shanghai Conservatory of Music
 - Directors: Zhang Wei
 - Master class on Post serial techniques in Lutoslawski’s String quartet
- 2017 Graduate Students Summer Social Study on Guangxi Folk Music July 10-24, 2017
 - Shanghai Conservatory of Music/Hamburg Hochschule für Musik
 - Directors: Chen Xiaoyong, Zhang Wei, Elmar Lampson
- Komm in die Gänge Festival 2017 (Publication in Prothese Magazin) April 10-14, 2017
 - Brahm’s Birthplace Speckstraße
 - Directors: University of Hamburg/Gängeviertel
- Festival a Pelican 27&28 July, 2017
 - Domaine du Pélican (Gignac)
 - Directors: Gates McFadden, James McFadden-Talbot
- Windführ’s Werkstatte Konzerte April 10-14, 2017
 - Miralles Saal, Hamburg, Germany
 - Directors: Maestro Ulrich Windführ and Elmar Lampson
- United Nations Global Sustainable Arts Initiative “NoiseGate Festival” September 20-25, 2017
 - New York University
 - Directors: Aeon New Music Ensemble
- Listening to China Festival of Contemporary Music, November 24-December 5th, 2015
 - Shanghai, China
 - Directors: Ye Gouhui
 - Master classes with: Tristan Murail
- Tuesdays @MonkSpace (Eclectic Salon 2016)
 - Los Angeles, California
 - Directors: Villa Aurora and The Varied Trio
 - Broadcast “native sounds” KPFFK 90.7 FM
- HEARnow Festival of Contemporary Music, May, 2015
 - Los Angeles, California
 - Directors: Hugh Levick, the Lyris Quartet, William Kraft, Gloria Chen, Esa-Pekka Salonen
- Soundscape Performance Exchange, July 11-22, 2013
 - Lago Maggiore, Maccagno, Italy
 - Master classes with: Dan Visconti, Brian Hulse, Michael Quell

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Catalogue of Works

Orchestra:

- Too much ego.* (2017)
3.3.3.3. -4.3.3.2. -perc1.4. -pno. -hp. -str.
- I am because you are, we are because they were* (2016-17)
2.2.2.2. - 4.2.3.2. -perc 1.2. - pno. - hp.-str.
- The Empty City Stratagem* (2015)
3.3.3.3. -4.3.3.2. -perc1.4. -tenor soloist. -hp. -str.

Large Chamber (5+ Players):

- Die Badende* (2014)
alto sax, bass cl., hp., vln., vla., vc.

Small Chamber (2-4 Players):

- Simone* (2018)
for speaking guitarist, guitar, cello, and cello
- Gelobt sei der Horizont! Duo* (2017)
for violin duet
- Memory Fragments II (trying to sing)* (2016)
for clarinet, cello, and piano
- Memory Fragments I (wir sind noch nicht zu spät)* (2015)
for violin, piano, and percussion
- Five Short Narratives* (2012)
for guitar duet
- Selbstparodie* (2012)
for piano trio
- thoughts disappearing into air* (2011)
for high male voice, flute, and piano

Solo Works:

- Gelobt sei der Horizont! Solo* (2017)
solo violin
- PARTTTA(trope) (2016)
solo violin
- Adrift in the Wohldorfer Wald* (2015)
solo guzheng
- Sich überflüssig vorzukommen* (2014)
solo violoncello
- when all is ruin once again* (2014)
solo piano
- RESTRAINT/motion (2011)
solo clarinet
- For Sevan* (2010)
solo violoncello