

Classical Brecht

An attempt at reconciliation and understanding between music and word/a concert piano answers the laments/the songs/the love poems of the poor B.B.

Hartmut Becker, actor

Hartmut Becker is a German popular stage and film star. He has worked in the theatre since 1962, during which time he has starred in dozens of plays and has been featured in many international and national film and television productions.

At theatres he was playing leading parts at the state theatres of Munich, Vienna, Berlin and others.

His film debut he made in 1970 in Michael Verhoeven's feature film *O.K.*. The film was the official German contribution at the International Film Festival Berlin 1970 and its hot political expressiveness was the sensation of Berlin and killed the festival. Hartmut's performing in this film earned several prizes and a great praise in the German feature articles. After *O.K.* Hartmut Becker was one of Germany's busiest actors in film and theatre.

His first leading part in an English language production Mr. Becker performed in the BBC-film *Forgive our foolish ways*, where he played the role of a German prisoner of war next to Kate Nelligan. The television film became a very big success all over the world. Mr. Becker's following international film was the American-English production *Jenny's War* (Columbia Pictures). His partners in this film were Dyan Cannon, Elke Sommer and Trevor Howard. For his widely praised performance in the following American production *Escape from Sobibor* (director: Jack Gold, also starring Alan Arkin and Rutger Hauer) Hartmut had been nominated for an Emmy Award 1988. In his next Festival-Film (*Il decimo clandestino* /Festival International du Film Cannes 1989) Hartmut Becker worked together with admirable director Lina Wertmüller. His female partner in this feature film was Dominique Sanda. Several dream parts followed, for example the characters Niels Jost in *A quiet conspiracy* (Channel 4; also starring Joss Ackland), Rauscher in the American Film *Triumph of the Spirit* (director: Robert M. Young; with Willem Dafoe, Robert Loggia), King Christian in *Young Catherine* (American TV; with a.o. Venessa Redgrave, Julia Ormond, Marthe Keller, Maximilian Schell; director: Michael Anderson) and last not least Dieter Krause in the English TV-thriller *The Waiting Time* (ITV 1999; director: Stuart Orme). His last leading in a German feature film was the part of Goran in *The Unforgotten*.

Since 1998 Mr. Becker is producing performances with literature and music. He works with innovative musicians from Germany: Evelyn Ulex (piano), Eva-Christina Schoenweiss (violine/DSO Berlin), Babette Haag (percussionist), American cellist Wayne Foster-Smith, American soprano Cassandra Hoffman and Canadian pianist Maureen Malis.

Evelyn Ulex, pianist

“ Ulex played Liszt's Piano Concerto No.2, her harp-like arpeggios sweeping across the keyboard drew in the audience from the start. Her charisma simply was unstoppable.” – Classical New Jersey Society Journal

Evelyn Ulex, was born in Berlin, Germany. At the age of ten, she won the national "Festival of Young Talent" in Dresden and later received top medals in the J.S. Bach competition in Leipzig, Germany. She was placed in the prestigious Special School for Music in Berlin, continued her studies at the Hanns Eisler University, graduated from the UdK in Berlin, and pursued further studies with Prof. Boris Bloch at the Folkwang Hochschule, where she received her artist diploma.

Ms. Ulex was a finalist in the Frienna Awerbuch International Piano Competition in New York City, laying the cornerstone for her careers in both the United States and Europe.

She has performed on three continents as soloist, with orchestras, and intensively in chamber music, in venues as the Philharmonie, Konzerthaus and the Brazilian Embassy in Berlin, Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, 92nd Street Y, Library for the Performing Arts and the National Arts Club in New York. She gave concerts at the German Consulates in New York, Miami, Atlanta, Vancouver and the German Embassy in Washington, DC.

Ms. Ulex collaborates with contemporary New Yorker composers (Mohammed Fairouz, Jeff Scott, Valerie Coleman) and performs their works (recording for Koch Records music by John David Earnest).

Interesting concert projects of hers are the "200 Years of Brazilian classical Songs", with soprano Katia Guedes, "Sight & Sound" a live concert with projections of paintings by Berlin artist Ade Frey and

"Poetry & piano/artists in the move" with Berlin actor Hartmut Becker.

Evelyn Ulex is also a founding member of the TransAtlantic Ensemble with Grammy nominated clarinetist Mariam Adam (Imani Winds), performing classical standards to crossover Jazz compositions (music by Paquito D'Rivera, Miguel del Aguila).

Evelyn Ulex can be heard at " Pictures of Music" released at Eroica Records.

She has appeared at the series "Artist Portraits" and other interviews at the Berlin Radio broadcast RBB and is a Steinway artist.

Program

BRECHT MEETS CLASSIC

poems/ballads/songs
about love and other minor matters

in dialogue with piano pieces by
Alban Berg/Schumann/Gershwin
Skrjabin/Shtschedrin/Brian Agro
Erik Satie/Mozart/ Rachmaninoff

with songs by
Kurt Weill, Paul Dessau, Hanns Eisler, Kurt Schwaen, Franz S. Bruinier

performed by

Hartmut Becker: recital
Evelyn Ulex: piano

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The acted out/performed/sung texts of the great German playwright and poet.
An ode to the audience/ to get involved.

Picture



Evelyn Ulex and Hartmut Becker