

Poetic Piano

Actor Hartmut Becker & Pianist Evelyn Ulex

Poets & Musicians on the Road

Our presentation is a journey, on a joyous and torturous road traveled by Poets and Musicians of the past 250 years. It is two artists sharing a story about the soul and life of the artist, told through the poetry and music of artists who came before us.

Artists are continually in motion, in thought and in life. They are constantly searching for a new road; one that will lead them out of the mainstream, into a land of truth, of transcendent reality, of vivid perceptions.

Sometimes that road was not simply a metaphor, it was a means fleeing political oppression, such as Heinrich Heine. At other times it means a sojourn in a foreign land searching for beauty, intensity and inspiration, as Goethe had done throughout his life.

History is generous in providing periods when artists like Bert Brecht, Anna Seghers and Lion Feuchtwanger were forced into exile by dictators and tyrants who were threatened by their independent political expression and cultural non-conformity. In these times, a foreign country became a place of an unwelcome hegira, with its unfamiliar language and little possibility for work.

Adding to their enduring struggles, after a chaotic world returned to its routine, many artists found returning home to be unexpectedly difficult. For some it led to greater creativity for others these emotions were too much to bear (Wolfgang Borchert).

Poets and Musicians on the road tells stories with music which connect the lives of Heinrich Heine, Goethe, Beethoven, Brahms, Anna Seghers and Alban Berg, from Lion Feuchtwanger and Boris Blacher, Bert Brecht and Kurt Weill, to Wolfgang Borchert, Samuel Barber, Klaus Pohl and Rodion Schtschedrin. We take the audience on a journey that traverses happy moments, funny situations and sad events, the real and surreal; so that like the artist, for a few minutes at least, they too escape the mainstream.

Escaping

Brahms, op.118/Ballade
HEINRICH HEINE (1797–1856)
Excerpts from „Germany: A Winter's Tale“, poems
Beethoven Sonate, op.27/2, 1.Movement

On the road

GOETHE (1749–1832)
Excerpts from his biography „Italian Journey“, Ballads
Brahms, Ballade op.118

Emigration

ANNA SEGHERS (1900–1983)
Excerpts from the novel „The Seventh Cross“ & „Neue Deutsche Blätter“
Alban Berg , Sonata op.1

LION FEUCHTWANGER (1884–1959)
Excerpts from his story book „Odysseus and the swine“
& „Wetcheek's American song book“
Kurt Weill, Intermezzo

BERTOLT BRECHT (1889–1956)
Excerpts from screenplay „Hangmen also die“, poems & songs
Boris Blacher, aus trois pieces No. 2 & 3

Return home

WOLFGANG BORCHERT (1921–1947)
Excerpts from the drama „The Man Outside“,
Excerpts from his story book „Hundeblume“
Samuel Barber, Blues

Today

KLAUS POHL (born 1952) *
Excerpts from screenplay „Karata Billy Returns“ & „Waiting room Germany“
Schtschedrin: Basso ostinato

