

Sueddeutsche Zeitung Extra / 28 December 2006 – 3 January 2007
By Nicole Graner

Excerpt:

“The composer, who was born in 1963 in Munich, says that the French writer’s estate rejected 75 musical treatments. When the heirs attended the first auditions in 1998 in Salzburg, they were enthusiastic and granted the composer the rights to the material.

“The idea was like a bolt of lightning,” says Schapfl, but the execution was more arduous. (...) A chorus embodies the Stars of the Universe; a violin section interprets the expanse of outer space. Characters are defined musically: The Drunkard speaks the atonal musical language of the 20th century, the King is represented by horns, and Schapfl composed a step dance for the entrance of the Vain Man.

“I had to make use of the possibilities the story affords for exaggeration. From this comes the dramatic arc that is so important,” says Schapfl. And perhaps one will also get some goose bumps – (...) when the little Prince says goodbye to his Rose (...). “But I love you,” says the flower. “You just didn’t know it.”

Sunday, February 4, 3:30pm, Philharmonic Hall, Gasteig, Rosenheimerstrasse 5, tel 21 83 91 82