

Nikolaus Schapfl

Composer

Nikolaus Schapfl, born in 1963 in Munich, Germany, started his musical education at the age of 7 and wrote his first compositions at the early age of 14. He studied composition from 1992 to 1996 at the *University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna* and at the *University of Music and Dramatic Arts Mozarteum Salzburg* and graduated with honors from the latter in 1996. His dissertation was entitled: **“Introduction to the Tonal Language of Aleksandr Scriabin”**.



In 1995 his first CD, **“Wandlung”** (Lieder for soprano and piano) was released and in 1998 he recorded **“Songs without Words”** for violin and piano, together with Vladimir Tsypin, the principal violinist of the *New York Philharmonic Orchestra*.

His opera **“The Little Prince”**, based on Saint-Exupéry’s book, was premiered with great success in 2003 by the orchestra *Junge Philharmonie Salzburg*. Additional performances followed in several cities in Austria, Germany, France and Russia. In that same year he won the Eastman Prize in *The Hof International Film Festival* with his music for the movie **“The Templar”**, written and directed by the Oscar winner Henckel von Donnersmarck (co-authors Florian and Sebastian Henckel v. D.). In 2008 Nikolaus Schapfl played in the famous *Schloß Leopoldskron* the solo part of his **Concerto for Piano and Orchestra**, accompanied by the *Salzburg Philharmonic Orchestra*. The *Mozarteum Summer Academy* of Salzburg showcased a Composer’s Portrait of Nikolaus Schapfl in 2010. At the *Grafenegg Festival* 2012 he conducted the *Tonkünstler Orchestra* of Lower Austria, which performed the **“Caravaggio - Elemente”** - orchestral excerpts from his opera **“Caravaggio”**, a work revolving around the life of the famous baroque painter. This opera, on which he is still currently working, was the subject to a documentary film produced in 2014 by the *University of Applied Sciences of Salzburg*. He’s also currently working on an Oratorium commissioned by the City of Loitz, Germany. The premiere shall be performed in 2017 by the *Permonik Youth Choir*, the 1st-prize winner of the *New York Choral Festival of 2013*. His list of compositions varies greatly, including chamber music works as well. His **Quintet for Piano and Strings** was premiered by the ensemble *mozARTE Quintett Salzburg* in the *Schloß Goldegg* in August 2014. His most recent work, composed in January 2015, is **“I Give You My Hand”**, a message of peace, hope and unity from the children of Salzburg to the world in the form of a musical video, starred by the soprano Johanna Mucha and the *Salzburg Childrens’ Choir*.

His music has been played by many renowned orchestras and ensembles, including the *Münchner Rundfunkorchester* (Munich Radio Orchestra), the *Stuttgarter Philharmoniker*, the *Filharmonia Opolská* (Polish Philharmonic Orchestra), the *Shangai Symphonic Orchestra* and the *Badische Staatskapelle* of Karlsruhe.

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