

Press Release

5th Composition Prize of the CHRISTOPH DELZ FOUNDATION awarded to Thomas Amann (Austria)

Thomas Amann (Austria) is the winner of the Fifth Composition Competition sponsored by the CHRISTOPH DELZ FOUNDATION in collaboration with the LUCERNE FESTIVAL (2012). The prizewinning work, *Les jeux / Les Poupées*, will be premiered within the program of the LUCERNE FESTIVAL on 9 September 2012 by the *basel sinfonietta* under the baton of Peter Eötvös.

Thomas Amann (born in 1978 in Innsbruck) studied with Beat Furrer in Graz and Chaya Czernowin in Vienna, and participated in various workshops and in the Darmstadt Vacation Courses for New Music. From 2009 to 2011 he taught music theory at the Graz University of the Arts. He has won various prizes in Austria, and collaborated with the Klangforum Wien, the Arditti Quartet, and the ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna, among others. Works by Thomas Amann have been performed in Austria, Croatia, Italy, Slovenia, the USA, and Israel.

Amann's *Les jeux / Les Poupées* was selected by a five-member international jury (Chaya Czernowin, Marc Kilchenmann, Roland Moser, Mark Sattler, and Johannes Schöllhorn) from among nearly one hundred submissions from around the world. The other finalists in this competition were David Brynjar Franzson (Iceland / USA) and Martin Iddon (Great Britain).

The Composition Competition of the Basel-based CHRISTOPH DELZ FOUNDATION was held for the fifth time in 2010/11; in the future, too, it is to take place every three years. In this way, the foundation established by the Swiss pianist and composer Christoph Delz (1950-1993) fulfills its primary purpose. This was the second time the composition competition took place in collaboration with the LUCERNE FESTIVAL. The monetary prize amounts to CHF 50,000. In addition, the Foundation sponsors the premiere of the winning work by the *basel sinfonietta* under the direction of the Hungarian conductor Peter Eötvös.

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