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# Minas Borboudakis

Contemporary

# Minas Borboudakis

*Music is life and life is music*

Born in 1974 in Heraklion, Greece, Minas Borboudakis started studying piano and music theory with Georgios Kaloutsis in 1985. In 1992 he moved to Munich where he continued his musical education with Olaf Dressler and Urszula Mitrenga-Wagner in piano, and Wilfried Hiller in composition. He subsequently honed his compositional skills with Peter Michael Hamel in Hamburg. He has attended a series of master classes with Luciano Berio, George Crumb, and Wolfgang Rihm in composition and Rudolf Kehrler and Aleksey Nasedkin in piano.

Borboudakis was awarded a scholarship by the International Summer Academy of the Mozarteum University Salzburg in 2000, the Tübingen Composition Scholarship in 2003, the “Bayerische Staatsförderpreis für Musik” in 2004, and a residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris in 2007. He has been the recipient of a number of awards, most notably the third prize at the Günter Bialas International Chamber Music Competition (for *Krámata*) in 2002, the Rodion Shchedrin Chamber Music Award (for *Choróchronos I* and *Σ – Cassiopeia*) in 2005 and the prize of the Christoph and Stephan Kaske Foundation as recognition of his work as composer and performer in 2008.

Borboudakis' music has been commissioned and performed by renowned orchestras, including the Choir, the Symphonieorchester and the Rundfunkorchester of the Bavarian Radio, the Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart, the Rundfunksinfonieorchester Saarbrücken, the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, the Athens State Orchestra, the Wiener Symphoniker and the Tonhalle-Orchestra Zürich.

He has also collaborated with prominent ensembles such as Ensemble Modern, Kremerata Baltica, Münchener Kammerorchester, Singer Pur, Österreichisches Ensemble für Neue Musik, ERGON Ensemble and Camerata Athen. Notable soloists Peter Sadlo, Johannes Moser, Alexej Gerassimez, Andreas Skouras, Alice Sara Ott and conductors Johannes Kalitzke, Tito Ceccherini, Vassilis Christopoulos, Enrique Mazzola, Constantinos Carydis, Juraj Valčuha, Carl St. Clair have performed his music. As composer, he cooperated with institutions and festivals including the Bayerische Staatsoper, Deutschlandfunk, MDR Musiksommer, Bregenzer Festspiele, Darmstädter Ferienkurse, Kasseler Musiktage and many others.

His music theater, *liebe. nur liebe*, was premiered in 2007 under the baton of Kent Nagano at the Munich Opera Festival of the Bavarian State Opera. The political story “Z” was the theme for his homonymous music theater work, which was premiered in 2018 at the Greek National Opera and in 2019 at the Opernfestspiele of the Bavarian State Opera with great success under his baton.

Beside working as a composer and organizing composition workshops, Borboudakis regularly appears as a pianist and conductor performing his own and other contemporary composers' works.

His compositional style is influenced by microtonality, percussive timbres, and sliding sounds. Some focal points in his work are time and space, classical philosophy, literature, mythology, and cosmological questions. Dominated by strong rhythmical impulse and experiments with electronic sounds, his music borrows elements from ancient Greek tonal systems and rhythmic patterns.

Minas Borboudakis lives and works in Munich.

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# Minas Borboudakis

*Music is life and life is music*

Minas Borboudakis (1974) ist in Heraklion auf Kreta geboren und aufgewachsen. Seit 1992 lebt er in Deutschland, zunächst studierte er in München und Hamburg Klavier und Komposition, seit vielen Jahren ist er als freischaffender Komponist und Pianist in München tätig. Für seine Arbeit wurde er mehrfach ausgezeichnet, darunter der Rodion Shchedrin-Kammermusikpreis, der Preis der Christoph und Stephan Kaske Stiftung, der Bayerische Kunstförderpreis sowie der Förderpreis Musik der Stadt München.

In seinen Kompositionen setzt sich Minas Borboudakis mit philosophischen und kosmologischen Fragen auseinander – für ihn ist das Komponieren ein Weg, das Leben durch Musik zu verstehen und wiederzugeben. Sein Musikidiom bewegt sich zwischen Emotion und Intellekt, Poetik und Realismus. Die Musiksprache in Borboudakis' Werken zeichnet sich aus durch Impulsivität, Mikrotonalität, reiche Klangfarben und expressive Gesten.

Im Mittelpunkt seiner Arbeit stehen die großen Zyklen: *ROAI I-V* (für diverse Kammermusikformationen), eine Auseinandersetzung mit der Thematik des Fließens nach dem Heraklitischen Satz „Panta Rhei“. In *Photonic constructions I-III* (für Orchester und Ensembleformationen) stellt er die duale Natur des Lichts durch oszillierende Klänge dar. Als dritter Zyklus neben zahlreichen Kompositionen für Solowerke bis zu großbesetzten Orchesterkompositionen kommt der *Cycloids I-III* (für Tasteninstrumente), eine Beschäftigung mit der Frage des Kreisens und der ständig mutierenden Wiederholung.

Eine weitere zentrale Rolle im Schaffen von Minas Borboudakis spielen Musiktheater- und multimediale Arbeiten: Entstanden sind Werke wie *liebe.nur liebe* (2007, Bayerische Staatsoper), *έδιζησ[Α]μην έμε[Ω]υτόν* (2012, Münchner Biennale), *Angels* (2014, Conservatorium Maastricht) oder *Enheduanna* (2015, The Glasgow School of Arts). An der Griechischen Nationaloper in Athen feierte 2018 das Musiktheater „Z“ unter seiner Leitung große Erfolge.

Die Musik von Minas Borboudakis wird in den führenden europäischen Konzerthäusern gespielt, wie der Berliner Philharmonie, der Elbphilharmonie, der Wigmore Hall oder dem Southbank Centre in London. Außerdem bei großen Festivals wie den Bregenzer Festspielen, der Münchener Biennale oder den Darmstädter Ferienkursen.

Auftraggeber und Interpreten sind renommierte europäische Orchester und Ensembles, etwa das Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, das Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, das Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, die Wiener Symphoniker oder das Ensemble Modern und die Kremerata Baltica. Künstler wie Kent Nagano, Juraj Valčuha, Constantinos Carydis, Enrique Mazzola, Johannes Moser, Alexej Gerassimez, Andreas Skouras und Alice Sara Ott gehören zu den Interpreten seiner Musik.

Neben seinem Schaffen als Komponist konzertiert Minas Borboudakis regelmäßig als Pianist und Dirigent mit verschiedenen Ensembles und Kammermusikpartnern, etwa den Nürnberger Symphonikern, dem Münchner Kammerorchester und dem Ergon Ensemble.

Als Dozent und Musikvermittler entwickelt er mit diversen Institutionen Projekte für junge Kreative, beispielsweise für das Education-Programm des Symphonieorchesters des Bayerischen Rundfunks, den Kompositionswettbewerb Jugend komponiert Bayern sowie Meisterkurse für Komposition und Interpretation Neuer Musik an diversen Musikhochschulen.

Höhepunkt der Saison 2017/2018 war die Premiere des Musiktheaters „Z“ nach dem gleichnamigen Roman von Vassilis Vassilikos. Als erstes Auftragswerk der neuen Griechischen Nationaloper wurde es zu einer der wichtigsten Opernproduktionen 2018 in Griechenland gekürt. Die deutsche Fassung und gleichzeitig zweite Inszenierung wurde im Rahmen der Opernfestspiele im Juli 2019 an der Bayerischen Staatsoper uraufgeführt.

**Orchestra****Constellation** (2003/08) 14'

version for orchestra

hn(4), timp, perc(3), str, sampler

First performed 07 January 2011, Zürich, Tonhalle, by Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, cond.: Constantinos Carydis  
EP 12575

**Medea granulaire** (2010) 11'

for orchestra

2.2.2.2 - 0.2.2.0 - timp - hp - str

Commissioned by the Bayerischer Rundfunk

First performed 09 July 2010, Andechs (D), Orff in Andechs Festival, by the Münchner Rundfunkorchester,  
cond.: Ulf Schirmer  
EP 12578

**Photonic Constructions II (Prism)** (2007/08) 9'

for large wind orchestra and trio

4.4.4.4 - 4.4.4.1 - timp, perc(3) - installed trio: hp (ampl), sampler, perc (vibraphone, steel drums)

Commissioned by the American Wind Symphony Orchestra

First performed 11 August 2008, Augusta (US), by American Wind Symphony Orchestra,  
cond.: Robert A. Boudreau  
EP 68247

**Photonic Constructions III** (2008/10) 13'

for orchestra

3.3.3.3 - 4.3.3.1 - timp, perc(3) - pf - hp - str

Commissioned by the Süddeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz and the Ernst von Siemens Foundation for Music

First performed 21 April 2010, Konstanz (D), by Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz,  
cond.: Vassilis Christopoulos  
EP 12581

**Z Metamorphosis** (2021) 22'

for orchestra

3(1/2/3, picc, A-fl, B $\flat$ -fl).2(1/2, ehn).3(1/2, bcl/3, cbcl).2(1/2, cbsn) - 4.2(1, pictpt/2).3(1/2, btrbn).0 - timp, perc(3) -  
pf(sampler) - egtr - str

Commissioned by Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg & Junge Deutsche Philharmonie funded by the Ernst von  
Siemens Music Foundation

First performed 16 January 2022, Salzburg (A), by Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg, cond.: Constantinos Carydis  
EP 14626

**Ensemble Music****Entropic polyphonies** (2004) 11'

for ensemble

fl, ob, cl (bcl), perc, pf, vln(2), vla, vlc

Commissioned by Young Euro Classic Festival

First performed 19 August 2004, Berlin, by Ensemble European Music Project, cond.: Minas Borboudakis  
EP 12576**Krámata - Κράματα** (2001) 10'

for ensemble

fl (picc), cl (bcl), perc, pf, vln, vlc

First performed 21 February 2003, Munich, Hochschule für Musik und Theater München, by Ensemble Oktopus, cond.: Konstantia Gourzi

Awarded 3rd Prize at the Günter Bialas International Chamber Music Competition

CD: Photonic Constructions - Works for Ensemble (NEOS 10922)

EP 12577

**Meta-Soundscapes (ROAI IV)** (2008) 12'

for ensemble

fl, cl, perc, pf, vln, vla, vlc

Commissioned by Bayerischer Rundfunk

First performed 15 October 2008, Fürth (D), Stadttheater, by Ars Nova Ensemble Nürnberg, cond.: Werner Heider

CD: Photonic Constructions - Works for Ensemble (NEOS 10922)

EP 12579

**Photonic Constructions I** (2006) 13'

for ensemble

fl (bfl), cl (bcl), perc, pf, vln, vla, vlc

Commissioned by Kasseler Musiktage 2006

First performed 29 October 2006, Kassel (D), Kasseler Musiktage 2006, by Ensemble Modern,

cond.: Manuel Nawri

CD: Photonic Constructions - Works for Ensemble (NEOS 10922)

EP 12580

**Vintage Spectra** (2016) 6'

for ensemble

1.1.1.1 - 1.1.1.0 - perc - pf - egtr, acdn - 1.1.1.1.1 (or string orchestra)

First performed 18 June 2016, Munich, by Ensemble der Münchener Gesellschaft für Neue Musik,

cond.: Peter Hirsch

EP 14181

**Z - 4383** (2018) 12'

for large ensemble

1.1.1.1 - 1.1.1.0 - perc(2) - acdn - pf - elec - str (1.1.1.1.1) or string orchestra

First performance 20 July 2018, Munich, by Akademie des Symphonieorchesters des Bayerischen Rundfunks,

cond.: Daniel Carter

EP 14315

**Solo Concertos with Orchestra****Archegonon** - Αρχέγονον (2002, revised 2006) 26'

for percussion solo and orchestra

perc solo - 3.2.2.2 - 4.2.2.0 - hp ampl(2) - str

Commissioned by the Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart des SWR

First performed 12 February 2004, Stuttgart, Liederhalle, by Peter Sadlo and Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart des SWR, cond.: Carl St. Clair

First performed (revised version) 17 March 2006, Turin (I), Auditorium RAI, by Peter Sadlo and Orchestra Nazionale Sinfonica della RAI, cond.: Tito Ceccherini

CD: Photonic Constructions - Works for Ensemble (NEOS 10922)

EP 12571

**Σ- Cassiopeia** (2002) 16'

for percussion solo and string orchestra

Commissioned by the Kammerorchester Schloss Werneck

First performed 25 May 2002, Bad Brückenau (D), by Peter Sadlo and Kammerorchester Schloss Werneck, cond.: Ulf Klausenitzer

CD: Peter Sadlo spielt Minas Borboudakis (Cavalli CCD 417)

EP12572

**ChoroChronos II** - Χωρόχρονος II (1998/99) 17'

for timpani solo, piano, percussion and 7 brass instruments

timp solo, hn(2), tpt(2), tbn(2), tba, perc(3), pf

First performed 30 July 1998, Munich, Hochschule für Musik und Theater München, by Peter Sadlo and students of the Hochschule, cond.: Minas Borboudakis

CD: Peter Sadlo spielt Minas Borboudakis (Cavalli CCD 417)

EP 12574

## Chamber Music

### **Aeolian Elegy** (2007) 5'

for flute solo

First performed 2007, Volos (GR), at 'flute meeting' (International Competition)

EP 14278

### **Chorochronos I - Χωρόχρονος I** (1997) 21'

for two percussionists and two pianos

First performed 19 January 1998, Munich, Gasteig, by David Haller and Jens Hilse (perc), Minas Borboudakis and

Ursula Mitrenga (pf)

CD: Peter Sadlo spielt Minas Borboudakis (Cavalli CCD 417)

EP 12573R

### **Dead Strokes** (2006, revised 2011) 16'

for marimba solo and percussion quartet

First performed 28 May 2007, Schwetzingen (D), Schwetzingen Festspiele, by Peter Sadlo and via nova percussion

quartet

First performed (revised version) 05 August 2012, Salzburg (A), 2012 International Marimba Competition, by

participants of the International Marimba Competition Salzburg and via nova percussion quartet

EP 12618

### **DiffRACTed Thoughts** (2011) 11'

for accordion solo

First performed 26 March 2011, Munich, Schwere Reiter, MGNM Musikfest 2011, by Stefanie Schumacher

EP 14279

### **Evlogitária - Ευλογητάρια** (2001) 11'

for solo percussion

In memoriam Iannis Xenakis.

First performed 06 April 2002, Basel (CH), Vitra Design Museum, Les Muséiques Festival, by Peter Sadlo

CD: Peter Sadlo spielt Minas Borboudakis (Cavalli CCD 417)

EP 12701

### **Kurzschluss (Hommage à Diogenes)** (2018) 11'

for viola solo

EP 14367

### **loops'n grains (Cycloids II)** (2009/10) 14'

for two pianos

Commissioned by the Bayerischer Rundfunk

First performed August 2010, Munich, 59th ARD International Music Competition, by participants of the Music

Competition

EP 11299

### **modular loops** (2010) 11'

for one or multiple pianos

First performed 2012, Munich, by Minas Borboudakis

EP 14280

### **ROAI I** (2002) 12'

for violin, cello and piano

First performed 21 March 2002, Hamburg, Curiohaus, by Eurus Trio

EP 14276

### **ROAI V** (2010) 13'

for clarinet, viola and prepared piano

First performed 23 October 2010, Ravensburg (D), Festsaal Kloster Weißenau, by Bettina Faiss (cl), Christiane

Arnold (vla) and Minas Borboudakis (pf)

EP 14282

**Sechs Gedanken** (2018) 11'

Hommage à P.M. Hamel

Random permutations I

'Vielleicht...' / 'Ίσως...'

'Blau' (dunkel, wie der Anfang der Nacht) / 'Μπλε' (σκούρο, σαν την αρχή της νύχτας)

Random permutations II

'Allegorie' / 'Αλληγορία'

for piano

EP 14277

**synaptic arpeggiator** (2011) 19'

for five woodwinds

fl(pic), ehrn, Eb-cl, bcl, cbsn

Commissioned by Bayerische Staatsoper

First performed 20 October 2011, Munich, Muffathalle, by members of the Bayerisches Staatsorchester

EP 12582

**things happening** (2021) 14'

for one double bass player (reciting text)

text: Nora Gomringer

EP 14611

**Unisono** (2018) 8'

for two percussionists

EP 14366



**Vocal Music****Askese Salvatores Dei** (2013) 26'

for mixed choir and orchestra

text: Nikos Kazantzakis

mixed choir (SATB) - 2.2.2.2 - 4.2.2.0 - timp, perc(2) - str

First performed 15 November 2013, Munich, Herz-Jesu-Kirche, by Chor und Symphonieorchester des Bayrischen Rundfunks, cond.: Ulf Schirmer

EP 12973

**EDIZISAMIN EMEOYTON** - έδιζησ[Α]μην έμε[Ω]υτόν (2012) 11'

fragment for solo voice and live electronics

text: Heraclitus / Nora Gomringer

Commissioned by the 13th Munich Biennale

First performed 16 May 2012, Munich Biennale, Muffatwerk, by Martina Koppelstetter (voc) and

Minas Borboudakis (elec)

EP 12680

**Slow Rain** (2013) 12'

for mixed choir a cappella

text: Minas Borboudakis

First performed 24 May 2014, Weimar (D), Weimarahalle, by Via Nova Chor, cond.: Florian Helgath

EP 14029

## Operas / Stage Works

### **Angels** (2014) 61'

dance theatre in 7 scenes

for percussion quartet

First performed 26 June 2014, Maastricht (NL), choreography by Jan van Opstal, cond.: Minas Borboudakis  
EP 14048

### **liebe.nur liebe** (2006/07) 70'

music theatre in 8 scenes

libretto: Frank Maria Reifenberg

for one actor, 8 singers, ensemble, tape and live electronics

s(2), mez(2), t(2), bar, b – fl, ob, cl, bsn – perc – pf (also sampler) – vln(3), vla, vlc, db (ebass) - tape/live electronics

Commissioned by Bayerische Staatsoper

First performed 25 July 2007, Munich, Bayerische Staatsoper, cond.: Kent Nagano

EP 12583 (Full Score)

EP 12584 (Vocal Score)

### **Z** (2016/17) 120'

music theatre based on the novel by Vassilis Vassilikos

libretto: Vangelis Hatziyannidis

German translation: Michaela Prinzing

for soloists, choir and chamber orchestra

Woman/Soul (mez), Dinosaurus magnus (b), Pterodactylus (t), Crab (t), Cricket (t), Investigator (bar), tiger (bar),

Tailor (bar), Pathologist (bar), Reporter (actor/speaking part), Nikitas (bar), Nikita's sister (s), Nikita's mother (s)

mixed choir, fl(pic+bf), cl(bcl), tpt, tbn(btn) - perc - egtr/gtr - pf(sampler) - vln, vla, vlc, cb - elec

First performed 02 March 2018, Athens, Greek National Opera, cond.: Minas Borboudakis (Greek version)

First performed 01 July 2019, Munich, Bayerische Staatsoper, cond.: Minas Borboudakis (German version)

EP 14270 (Full Score Greek Version)

EP 14270a (Full Score German Version)

EP 14271 (Vocal Score Greek Version)

EP 14271a (Vocal Score German Version)

## Future Works

### **sparks, waves & horizons** (2020/21) 26'

for orchestra

3(2,picc/3,bf).3(3,ehrn).3(B $\flat$ -cl/B $\flat$ -cl,E $\flat$ -cl/B $\flat$ -cl,bcl).3(3,cbsn) - 4.3(1,pictpt).3(3,btn).1 - timp, perc(4), pf, hp - str

First performance *tba*, by Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, cond.: *tba*

EP 14566





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