

Biography

Martin Mallaun interprets a wide range of music on the zither - from contemporary music to free improvisation and baroque lute music. As a botanist, he investigates the effects of climate change on the vegetation of high mountain ecosystems. In addition, he teaches zither at the Anton Bruckner University and at the Tyrol Music School Association.

For the past several years, Martin Mallaun has been working intensively to expand the zither repertoire. More than 70 new pieces, ranging from solo to orchestral works, have been composed for and premiered by him. On this path he has been fortunate to have such companions the zither trio GREIFER with Reinhilde Gamper (I) and Leopold Hurt (D), as well as the violinist Barbara Lüneburg. Among the numerous composers who composed for Martin Mallaun are names such as Georg Friedrich Haas, Manuela Kerer, Peter Jakober and Wolfgang Mitterer.

Martin Mallaun is also involved in various forms of contemporary improvisation. He has played with the *Vienna Improvisers Orchestra* and renowned representatives of improvised music such as Karlheinz Essl (electronics), Elisabeth Harnik (piano), the New York conceptual artist FAST FORWARD and many others. With his trio Tricky Bridges he builds bridges between Bela Bartok and contemporary music, between tango and free improvisation - and sometimes drifts off into avant-garde alienated Tyrolean folk songs.

In addition to contemporary music, Martin Mallaun devotes himself intensively to early music: his involvement with baroque music ranges from solo recitals and continuo playing to work as a soloist in baroque orchestras. In order to get closer to the historical sound of Renaissance music, his zither maker Klemens Kleitsch developed the world's first zither with a meantone fingerboard.

Martin Mallaun is regularly engaged by orchestras including Klangforum Wien, National Royal Scottish Orchestra, Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire, Zurich Opera Orchestra, Haydn Orchestra Bolzano-Trento and the Tonkünstlerorchester Niederösterreich. Theatre music, silent film music and the accompaniment of literary readings (e.g., by Christoph Ransmayr, Friedrich Achleitner or Alfred Komarek) round off Martin Mallaun's musical work.

In addition to his work as a musician and teacher, Martin Mallaun is involved in botanical studies and research projects, among others since 2001 in the GLORIA project (Global Research Initiative In Alpine Environments), an international initiative to investigate high mountain vegetation in the wake of climate change (www.gloria.ac.at). He has also carried out different projects for nature parks and various national parks in several countries.

Since 1996, Martin Mallaun teaches zither at the Tiroler Landesmusikschulwerk, and since 2021 at the Anton Bruckner University in Linz (A).

Martin Mallaun's artistic work is documented on several **CD recordings**:

2005: *zwischen steinen*; zither solo, old and new music (Extraplatte)

2010: *OMONÉRO*; new music for zither solo (Extraplatte)

2012: *GREIFER*; new music for three zithers (Idyllic Noise)

2014: *ruderals*; free improvisation with Karlheinz Essl, electronics (nachtstueck records)

2014: *Der dritte Mann*; audio book with reading & new music for ensemble (Mandelbaum Verlag)

2016: *Objets Trouvés*: old and new music, with accordionist Viviane Chassot (Genuin Classics)

2020: *Stimmungen*; microtonal new music and Renaissance music in meantone temperament (Loewenhertz)

In addition, he participated in dozens of **recordings by other artists**. The following list is only a small selection of these participations:

Max Raabe: *Küssen kann man nicht alleine* (DECCA, 2011)

Austrian Heartbeats #2, selected by G. F. Haas (Col Legno, 2015)

ORF Portrait-CD Manuela Kerer, 2010

ORF Portrait-CD Elisabeth Harnik, 2019

DRIFT: compositions by Katharina Klement (chamfunodords, 2019)

„*VolXmusik InnStrumented*“, with the orchestra InnStrumenti (HELBLING, 2017)

Awards, scholarships and prizes:

2004: 1. Internationaler Volkmann-Preis for zither in Munich

2005: Pasticcio-Preis of the radio station Ö1 for the CD „zwischen steinen“

2012/13: Scholarship holder of the Austrian Foreign Ministry in the programme NASOM (New Austrian Sound Of Music)

Small selection of festivals and concert series where Martin Mallaun performed:

Klangspuren Festival, Schwaz/Tirol

Edinburgh International Festival, UK

Offbeat Jazz Festival, Basel

Münchener Biennale

Festspiele Erl

Moselfestival, Deutschland