

short biography of elisabeth harnik



elisabeth harnik was born in 1970 in graz. she first studied classical piano. after working at instrumental and vocal improvisation (courses with david moss, peter kowald, lauren newton a.o.) she began her professional career as a pianist and singer by interpreting her own compositions and performing in various forms of improvised music.

she then studied composition and music theory (beat furrer) at the university of music and dramatic art in graz and in 2006 received her master 's degree with distinction.

her compositions (chamber-music, ensemble-music, music for theatre) have been performed regularly, notably at the graz easter festival 2002, the styrian chamber music festival 2003, the hörfest graz 2003/04/05 and as part of the vienna mozart year 2006. her first opera-project "kugelstein" (libretto: olga flor) has recently been performed at the opera house graz.

in addition to her work as a composer **elisabeth harnik** has performed piano improvisations at national and international festivals (e.g. international piano music festival, vilnius; ulrichsberger kaleidophon; piano festival soundgrube, vienna; musicacoustica, beijing; beethoven festival, bonn; festival open ears, munich, konfrontationen nickelsdorf etc.).

besides her solo performances (cd "irrt, irrt das ohr" extraplatte 2005) she is member of many ensembles for improvised music.

the city of graz awarded her the music promotion prize in 2005. in 2006 this was followed by a grant from the federal chancellery. in 2007 she was the official holder of the austrian state grant for composition and the styrian andrzej-dobrowolski grand.

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