

PRESS INFORMATION

for immediate release

13 March 2012

Classical:NEXT | 30 May – 2 June 2012 | Gasteig / Munich

First Classical:NEXT showcases confirmed

Munich/Berlin: The first five showcase acts confirmed for Classical:NEXT 2012 already point to the variety of possibilities on future classical concert stages: The Turkish pianist **Seda Röder** will create a dialogue between John Cage compositions and her own improvisations while the ECHO award winning trio **Sax Allemande** from Germany freshens up arias and piano repertoire in versions for saxophone. Both **Ensemble Variances** from France and the **Sjaelland String Quartet** from Denmark will feature appealing contemporary work: The French harmonia mundi act Ensemble Variances will present compositions by their ensemble member **Thierry Pécou** while the four Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra's solo string players who are the Sjaelland String Quartet will explore correspondences between romantic and contemporary Danish composers.

The showcases have been selected by an international jury from more than 100 proposals. As jury member David Orlowsky puts it: *"It was a challenge to select ensembles and soloists to perform in Munich this year because of the sheer number of applicants. Also, there are many groups that have interesting approaches on how to free classical music from the museum and get it on the streets. It is really exciting that now there is a forum for that! Once the word gets out, there will surely be even more innovative and fresh proposals for future editions."*

Some of these new ideas are to be strikingly demonstrated in a special presentation that marries the music of Bach and cutting edge web technology: The **"Open Goldberg Variations Project"** features internationally acclaimed pianist **Kimiko Ishizaka**, who will perform Bach's famous masterpiece. The audience will be able to follow along with the automatically highlighted score as Ishizaka plays, thanks to an audio tracking technology of the **open source notation software Musescore**. Both the score and Ishizaka's recent recording of the Variations, were **crowdfunded by fans and released to the public domain**.

Open Goldberg Project manager Robert Douglass says: *"Classical:NEXT is a unique chance to show the innovative work of the Open Goldberg Variations project and to meet the visionaries from the music industry who are creating the future of the business."* Showcase artist Seda Röder is equally enthusiastic: *"I am excited about being a part of a Classical:NEXT, a revolutionary forum that aspires to re-unite the classical music community and change the way we look at the future of classical music."*

The programme will further be complemented by "C:NEXT Level", a partner initiative that, in the evenings of 31 May and 1 June, will take the spirit of Classical:NEXT to the **Munich Clubs Harry Klein and Bob Beaman** for a classical music club programme. More live showcases as well as the video showcases are to be announced soon.

Photos and more information: http://www.classicalnext.com/press/downloads/showcase_artists

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The 2012 jury: www.classicalnext.com/program/jury_members_2012

The constantly updated “Who is coming?” list, 250 delegates registered already:
www.classicalnext.com/delegates/who_is_coming

Guide rate prices until 30 March:

To be listed in the Classical:NEXT guide book as a delegate or a company, participants have to register until 30 March for the reduced guide rate prices. Online registration:

www.classicalnext.com/delegates/registration

Basic Information on Classical:NEXT:

Classical:NEXT is a new international professionals forum for classical music. From 30 May until 2 June international professionals from all sectors of the classical music scene will gather in Munich for the first edition of this new annual event. The aim is to create cross-sector networks and to find new solutions for the future of classical music.

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