

DER TOD,

DIE MUSE

MAHLER • MUSSORGSKI • BRAHMS

Cornelia Sonnleithner & Clara Sophia Murnig



This album is not a lament, but an expression of emotional intensity.

Death, an end, is always also a new beginning.

The contrast between pain and redemption, loss and longing, the past and the future.

Love, which reveals itself in all its facets through various twists of fate.

Clara Sophia Murnig & Cornelia Sonnleithner

CORNELIA SONNLEITHNER CONTRALTO

The Vienna-born contralto graduated with honors from the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. She also completed a course in classical operetta at the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna. Masterclasses with KS Vesselina Kasarova, KS Robert Holl, Charles Spencer, and others enriched her training. Her repertoire includes opera roles such as Eva (La morte di Abel by L. Leo), Angelo ("La Decollazione di San Giovanni Battista" by A. M. Bononcini), Storgè ("Jephtha" by G. F. Handel), Tetide ('Acide' by J. Haydn), Hänsel ("Hänsel und Gretel" by E. Humperdinck), Suzuki ("Madama Butterfly" by G. Puccini), Ulrica (Un ballo in maschera by G. Verdi), Henri (Der Opernball by R. Heuberger), Fortunata (Satyricon by B. Maderna), as well as oratorios such as J. S. Bach's Mass in B minor, St. Matthew Passion, St. John Passion, and Christmas Oratorio, G. F. Handel's



Messiah, W. A. Mozart's Requiem, F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy's "Elijah," the "Stabat Mater" by G. B. Pergolesi, G. Rossini and A. Dvorák, Petite Messe solennelle by G. Rossini, and the 2nd Symphony by G. Mahler. She has sung at the Salzburg Festival, the Zurich Opera House, the Vienna Volksoper, the Vorarlberg State Theater, the Vienna Konzerthaus, the Musikverein Vienna, the Brucknerhaus Linz, the Festspielhaus St. Pölten, the Herbstgold Festival Eisenstadt, the Festival Retz, the Schubertiade, the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, the Azore Festival, at the Bach Festival Budapest, at the Mozart Festival Bratislava, at the Philharmonic Hall Lviv in Ukraine, at the Origen Festival Cultural in Switzerland. Further performances took her to Denmark, Belgium, Spain, South Korea, and Japan, among other places. The contralto has worked with conductors such as Adam Fischer, Marco Armiliato, Heinz Ferlesch, Gerrit Prießnitz, Beat Furrer, Luca De Marchi, Ilya Ram, and directors such as Michael Sturminger, Carolin Pienkos, Corne-

lius Obonya, Otto Schenk, Sven Eric Bechtolf, Wolfgang Dosch, Stefan Otteni, Georg Zlabinger, Giovanni Netzer, Matija Ferlin, Sebastian Hirn, Tatjana Gürbaca, and Vivien Hohnholz. She is also a member of the Austrian ensemble Cantando Admont, which specializes in early and contemporary music and collaborates with renowned composers. The contralto forms a song duo with pianist Clara Sophia Murnig.

Further information at:
www.corneliasonnleithner.com

CLARA SOPHIA MURNIG PIANIST

Austrian pianist Clara Sophia Murnig is performing as a soloist, chamber musician and Lied collaborative pianist. She is specializing in contemporary piano music and a lecturer for piano at the Ludwig van Beethoven Department of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna since 2013.

As a pianist she was guest at the Edgar Elgar Room of the Royal Albert Hall (UK), at Sage Gateshead (UK), Konzerthaus Vienna, Schönberg Center Vienna, Gmundner Festwochen, festival classic.muerz, Styriarte, Beethovenhaus Baden bei Wien, Brahmsmuseum Mürzzuschlag, Cremona Musica 2017 (ITA), Stift Heiligenkreuz, Kultur- & Kongresszentrum Liederhalle Stuttgart (DE), Bernhard Theater Zürich (CHE), Chamber Music Hall of Piano Manufacturer Steingraeber & Söhne Bayreuth (DE), King Alexei's Place (RU),



Kunststation St. Peter Köln (DE) and Bayrische Akademie of the fine arts Munich (DE).

She is working with the composers Peter Jakober and Nava Hemyari und can be heard in duo with the singers Cornelia Sonnleithner, Zacharias Galaviz-Guerra and Martin Mairinger, as well as with violinist Iris Ballot and percussionist Joachim Murnig.

Her pianistic education she received at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna with Ursula Kneihs and Anna Pfeiffer and at the Royal College of Music in London in Piano Accompaniment with Simon Lepper and Roger Vignoles. 2024 she was part of the international Masterclasses at the Arnold Schönberg Center with KS Ildikó Raimondi and Charles Spencer, as well as the Liedclass at Schloss vor Husum with Ulf Bästlein und Charles Spencer, where she won 1. Lied-Duo prize and audience award in duo with bariton Zacharias Galaviz-Guerra. She worked as a Samling Artist with Malcolm Martineau, Stephen King und Sir Thomas Allen in 2014, 2012 at the Schubert Institut Baden

bei Wien with Elly Ameling, Helmut Deutsch, Julius Drake, Bernarda Fink, Robert Holl and Rudolf Jansen. She has been a student at the Viennese Days of Contemporary Piano Music with Helmut Lachenmann, Robert HP Platz and Clay McMillan, where she is now on the organization board of the festival. She has also been part of the international summer academy of the mdw with Klangforum Wien and enjoyed additional lessons with Ferenc Rados and Gregor Weichert.

In 2012 she received the STARTStipendium of the Ministry of Education, Art and Culture in the section Music and Performing Arts. She was a scholar of the Lucy Ann Jones Awards of the Royal College of Music and a scholar of the Josef-Krainer-Stipendienfonds of Styria in Austria.

For more information please visit:
www.claramurnig.com