

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, the *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, Cornelius 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 Konzerthaus Vienna, at Sage Gateshead (UK), Schönberg Center Vienna, Kultur- & Kongresszentrum Liederhalle Stuttgart (DE), Bernhard Theater Zürich (CHE), Reaktor, Kunststation St. Peter Köln (DE), Bayrische Akademie of the fine arts Munich (DE), Edgar Elgar Room of the Royal Albert Hall (UK), Beethovenhaus Baden bei Wien, Brahmsmuseum Müritzschlag, Stift Heiligenkreuz, King Alexei's Place (RU), as well as at festivals such as Wien Modern, Gmünder Festwochen, classic.muerz, Styriarte and Cremona Musica 2017 (ITA).



She is working with the composers Nimrod Borenstein, Violeta Dinescu, Dominik Giesriegl, Nava Hemyari, Peter Jakober and Verena Zeiner und can be heard in duo with the singers Cornelia Sonnleithner, Zacharias Galaviz-Guerra, 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 Kneihls and Anna Pfeiffer and at the Royal College of Music in London in Piano Accompaniment with Simon Lepper and Roger Vignoles. In 2024, she participated in the International Masterclasses at the Arnold Schönberg Center with KS Ildikó Raimondi and Charles Spencer, as well as in the Lied class at Schloss vor Husum with Ulf Bästlein and Charles Spencer. There, she won the 1st Prize for Lied Duo and the Audience Award together with baritone Zacharias Galaviz-Guerra. She worked as a Samling Artist with Malcolm Martineau, Stephen King and Sir Thomas Allen in 2014, 2012 at the Schubert Institut Baden 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 and Robert HP Platz, as well as part of the international summer academy of the mdw with Klangforum Wien.

In 2012 she received the STARTStipendium of the Austrian 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.

Further information at:
www.claramurnig.com