

# Vito Žuraj - composer

[www.vitozuraj.com](http://www.vitozuraj.com)

## Short biography

Vito Žuraj was born in 1979 in Maribor, Slovenia. Having completed his studies of composition and music theory with Marko Mihevec at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana, he continued his studies of composition with Lothar Voigtländer at the Dresden University of Music and Wolfgang Rihm at the Karlsruhe University of Music, where he also completed the MA course in music technology with Thomas A. Troge. In 2009/2010 he was fellow at the International Ensemble Modern Academy and at the „Academy Opera Today“ by the Deutsche Bank Foundation. Vito Žuraj has collaborated with renowned musicians such as New York Philharmonic, RSO Stuttgart des SWR, hr-Sinfonieorchester, Slovenian Philharmonic, Ensemble Modern, Klangforum Wien, Scharoun Ensemble, Ensemble Recherche und RIAS Kammerchor. His compositions have been performed at various international music festivals, including Salzburger Festspiele, New York Philharmonic Biennial, Ultraschall Berlin, Eclat Stuttgart, Darmstadt Summercourses, Gaudeamus Muziekweek, Manifeste Paris and Takefu Festival Japan, with conductors Matthias Pintscher, Johannes Kalitzke, Beat Furrer and Emilio Pomàrico. His first opera „Orlando.The Castle“ was premiered in 2013 at the Theater Bielefeld. Vito Žuraj's intensive work in the field of electronic music resulted in cooperations with ExperimentalStudio des SWR Freiburg, IRCAM Paris and ZKM Karlsruhe. His music was programmed in MoMA New York, Berliner Philharmonie, Mozarteum Salzburg, Kölner Philharmonie and Semper Opera Dresden. Vito Žuraj has been awarded numerous prizes, including the 1st Prize at the 57th Stuttgart Composition Prize 2012 and the orchestra prize by the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken. Vito Žuraj holds a lectureship for instrumentation and Gregorian chant at the Karlsruhe University of Music. For 2014 he was artist in residence at the German Academy Rome Villa Massimo.

## Education

- 2009-2010    Composition study  
at the International Ensemble Modern Academy in Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- 2006-2009    Master of Arts in Music Technology with Dr. Thomas A. Troge  
at the Karlsruhe University of Music, Germany
- 2004-2006    Postgraduate study of composition with Wolfgang Rihm  
at the Karlsruhe University of Music, Germany
- 2002-2004    Postgraduate study of composition with Lothar Voigtländer  
at the Dresden University of Music "Carl Maria von Weber", Germany
- 2001-2002    ERASMUS Exchange - Composition study with Jörg Herchet  
at the Dresden University of Music "Carl Maria von Weber", Germany
- 1997-2002    Degree programm in Composition and Music theory with Marko Mihevc  
at the Ljubljana Academy of Music, Slovenia

## Employment

- from 2007    Freelance composer
- from 2007    Lectureship for instrumentation and acoustics, orchestration for composers,  
notation in contemporary music and Gregorian chant  
at the Karlsruhe University of Music, Germany
- seit 2014    Lectureship for music theory at the Ljubljana Academy of Music, Slovenia

## Further education

- 2004-2012    Darmstadt Summer Courses for New Music, Germany
- 2011          IRCAM Overview Training Program Paris, France  
Voix Nouvelles Royaumont, France  
5. International Composition Seminar of Ensemble Modern, Germany
- 2010          Acanthes Metz, France
- 2009-2011    Matrix Freiburg (ExperimentalStudio des SWR), Germany
- 2005          Bartók Seminar 2005 with Johannes Schöllhorn, Szombathely, Hungary
- 2004          Workshop at the Music Academy Rheinsberg, Germany
- 2001-2003    Composition course Ticino Musica with Michael Jarrell, Lugano, Switzerland

## Prizes and grants

- 2014 One-year-fellowship at the German Academy Rome Villa Massimo, Italy  
Fellowship at the Academy of Arts Berlin and ZKM Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2012 1st Prize at the 57th City of Stuttgart Composition Competition, Germany  
for the piece *Changeover* for instrumental groups and orchestra  
Recommended work at the International Rostrum of Composers 2012 Stockholm  
for the piece *Warm-up* for French horn and percussion
- 2010-2012 Fellow at the Academy Opera Today by the Deutsche Bank Stiftung, Germany
- 2011 EMAS-Fellowship by the GEMA
- 2010 Fellowship at the Experimentalstudio des SWR Freiburg  
Recognition prize by the Art Mentor Foundation Luzern, Switzerland
- 2009 1st Prize VERS.1.5 "Electronic music in the church setting" by the Stiftskirche Stuttgart  
for the piece *Odtrg* for 8-channel-electronics  
Composition prize by the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken, Germany  
for the piece *Concerto* for clarinet and orchestra  
Fellowship by the Hanne Darboven Stiftung Hamburg, Germany
- 2008 1st Prize VERS.1.4 "Electronic music in the church setting" by the Stiftskirche Stuttgart  
for the piece *iSlider* for 8-channel-electronics  
Fellowship by the ZKM Karlsruhe and IEMA Frankfurt
- 2007 1st Prize VERS.1.3 "Electronic music in the church setting" by the Stiftskirche Stuttgart  
for the piece *Perpetuum* for organ and electronics  
3rd Prize at the Composition competition „Düsseldorfer Orgelbuch“, Germany
- 2006 Wolfgang-Rihm-Fellowship by the Privatbrauerei Hoepfner, Germany  
Fellowship by the Slovenian Ministry of culture  
Karl-Steinbuch-Fellowship by the MFG Stiftung Stuttgart, Germany
- 2001 Fellowship "Prešernova nagrada" by the Ljubljana Academy of Music, Slovenia  
Fellowship "Prešernova nagrada" by the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

## Cooperations

New York Philharmonic, RSO SWR Stuttgart, hr-Symphony Orchestra Frankfurt, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken, Orchestre National de Lorraine, Slovenian Philharmonic, Slovenian Radio Orchestra; Ensemble Modern, Klangforum Wien, Scharoun Ensemble, Ensemble Recherche, Sinfonietta Leipzig, Talea Ensemble; RIAS Kammerchor; IRCAM Paris, Experimentalstudio des SWR Freiburg, ZKM Karlsruhe, Academy of Arts Berlin; conductors Matthias Pintscher, Johannes Kalitzke, Emilio Pomàrico, Brad Lubman, James Wood, Kasper de Roo

## **Presence at festivals and venues**

Salzburger Festspiele, New York Phil Biennial, Manifeste Paris, Acanthes Metz, Voix Nouvelles Royaumont, Gaudeamus Muziekweek Utrecht, Ultraschall Berlin, Tenso Days Berlin, Eclat Stuttgart, SWR Attacca Stuttgart, Frankfurter Positionen, cresc...Biennial Frankfurt, Heidelberger Frühling, MiTo Milano, Milano Musica, Time of Music Viitasaari, Takefu Japan, Davos Festival; Konzerthaus Berlin, Berliner Philharmonie, Kölner Philharmonie, Philharmonie Essen, Semperoper Dresden, Opera Frankfurt, Theater Bielefeld, Cankarjev dom Ljubljana

## **Radio and television broadcasts**

SWR2, SWR3, DeutschlandRadio Kultur, Deutschlandfunk, Hessischer Rundfunk, Saarländischer Rundfunk, ORF2, Slovenian RTV