

Concert in the course of the 36th International Wittgenstein Symposium 2013

Auditorium of the conference centre in Kirchberg am Wechsel
Friday, 16 August 2013 | 8:15 pm

Baldiun Sulzer (*1932)

“Tractatus logico-philosophicus – A musical approach to Ludwig Wittgenstein for Soprano solo and various sound devices”

Anna Maria Pammer, Soprano and staging

“An opera? A cantata? A sung telephone book? No! Just Ludwig Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus logico-philosophicus!*” These lines were written by a reviewer after the premiere of Balduin Sulzer’s truly extraordinary piece. His “approach” to a philosophical classic of the 20th century can certainly be considered as daring. Sulzer himself describes the work as “a bulging concentration of thoughts about language, logic, perception, about the foundation of ethics and about the problems of mysticism.”

This approach is even more staggering, taking into consideration that Sulzer has not only been the outstanding figure in contemporary Austrian music life for decades, but also a Cistercian at the monastery of Wilhering. His individual path to Wittgenstein leads him “via the language of the sensually perceptible and the emotionally experienceable, via sound and rhythm of Wittgenstein’s language, via the dramaturgy of his text structure, via the erotics of the hardly comprehensible.”

Sulzer’s “Tractatus” is dedicated to the Soprano Anna Maria Pammer, who staged and premiered the piece in 2007. She is a well-known specialist of extraordinary programmes dealing with topics such as “Degenerated” music [“Entartete” Musik], Barbara Strozzi, Cathy Barbarian, Anton Webern or Arnold Schoenberg.

For the first time this concert-length piece can now be experienced in Kirchberg am Wechsel, on Friday, the 16th of August 2013, at 8:15 pm in the course of the 36th International Wittgenstein Symposium 2013. The musician Ludwig Wittgenstein would probably be more than pleased about it.