

THE PRESENT, vocal ensemble

Hanna Herfurtner | Olivia Stahn | Bernadette Beckermann | Martha Jordan | Amélie Saadia | Will Frost | Tim Karweick | Robert Sellier | Florian Götz | Florian Hille | Felix Schwandtke

The concept of the soloist vocal ensemble THE PRESENT is to interweave traditional and contemporary music aiming to make one and the other audible in a new way, and to make unusual connections resonate. Fascinated by performative forms, the ensemble is made up of soloists, musical theatre performers and experts in baroque and contemporary music, united by their joy in shared sound and an interest in experimentation. Particular attention is paid to the conceptual design of the concert programmes.

The ensemble was founded to mark the occasion of Annette Schlünz's opera *Tre Volti*'s world première at the Schwetzingen SWR Festival 2017. This was followed by an engagement at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin for the dance theatre performance *A Monteverdi Project* by Saar Magal. In 2019, THE PRESENT returned to the Schwetzingen SWR Festival with a concert programme acclaimed by both the audience and the press. Luciano Berio's *A-Ronne for eight voices* and J. S. Bach's motets are seamlessly intertwined in *Die Wahrheit und das Leben*.

THE PRESENT has been invited to the Bregenz Festival, Tonhalle Düsseldorf, Scharoun Theater Wolfsburg, Thüringer Bachwochen, Nikolaisaal Potsdam, Güldener Herbst Thüringen, Musik Plus/Osterfestival Tirol in Hall, Gesellschaftshaus Magdeburg, Köthener Bachfesttagen, Schlossmediale Werdenberg, Eclats Concerts Fribourg and the Göttingen International Handel Festival. In 2026, the ensemble performed with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin (conductor: Jonathan Nott) and the Trickster Orchestra as well as a cappella with their programme EX UTERO at the Konzerthaus Berlin.

In summer 2023, the debut album *Ex Utero* has been released by the label Col Legno in co-operation with the Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) – presenting a new version of the Blessed Virgin vespers with works by Chiara Margarita Cozzolani, Hildegard Westerkamp, Michèle Bokanowsky and Catherine Lamb.

In the season 2026/27, THE PRESENT will be artist-in-residence at the Heinrich-Schütz-Musikfest in Dresden and in this function create and perform several concerts and programmes.

THE PRESENT was supported by the Federal Cultural Foundation as part of the Reload Programme. In 2021, the ensemble has been advanced artist in residence of ZAMUS (Centre for Early Music Cologne).

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