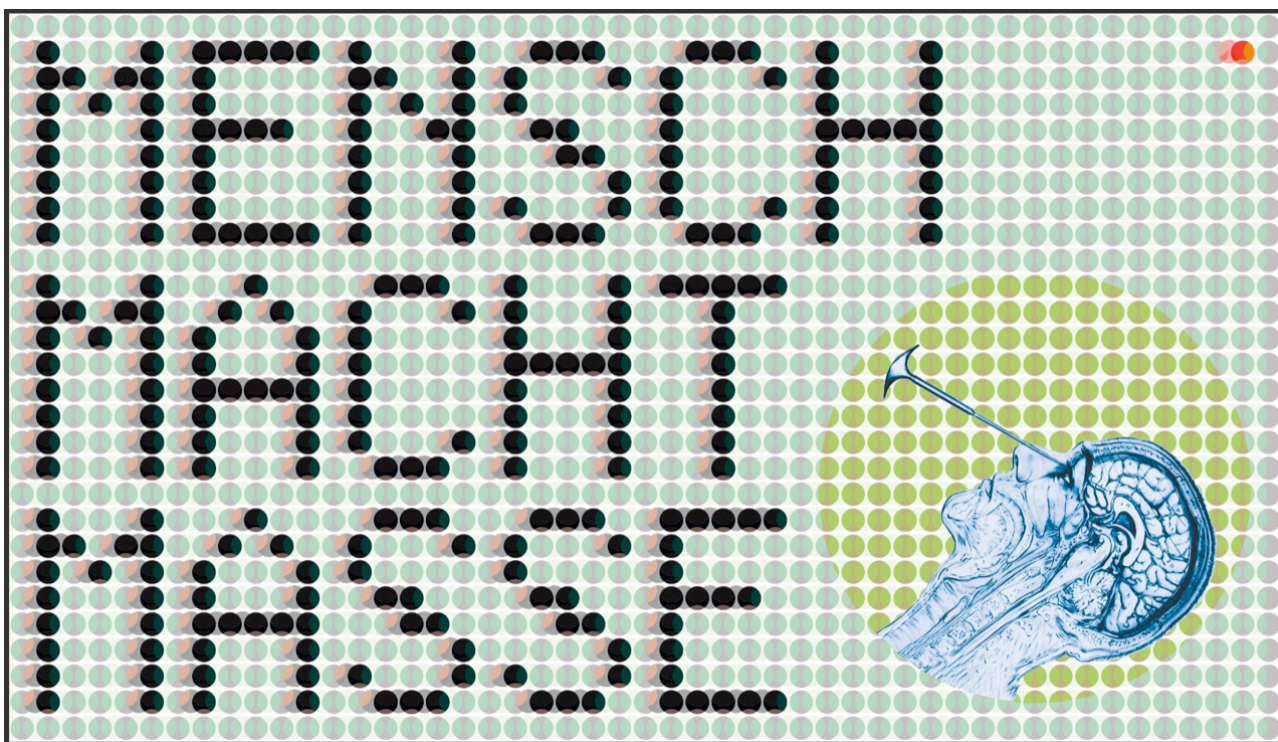


Salzburg Pocket Opera Festival 2025
Mensch, Masse, Macht

Conductors' Academy with Maestro Peter Rundel
 Premiere on 11.11.2025, further performances on 13., 14. & 15.11.2025
 at the SZENE theatre Salzburg



Klang21 - Salzburg Pocket Opera Festival

With the biennial Salzburg Pocket Opera Festival, Klang21 has made it its task since 2005 to present music theatre of the immediate present and thus put it up for discussion. These are entirely new works that are given their world premiere. Four to five commissions each on a central theme are given to composers with explicitly different approaches and working methods in order to answer artistic, formal and content-related questions about contemporary music theatre in an exemplary and divergent way. The central question behind this is: How much reality does opera need/tolerate? The festival sees itself as a platform and laboratory in which artistic processes of the genuinely interdisciplinary art form of opera are jointly advanced; following this principle, the artistic teams (composition, scene, text/dramaturgy) develop the pieces in close collaboration from the very beginning.

Under the artistic direction of director Thierry Bruehl, around 50 music theatre pieces have been

commissioned, produced and premiered in chamber format for the Pocket Opera Festival so far, including works by Sarah Nemtsov, Brigitta Muntendorf, Lisa Streich, Gordon Kampe, Reinhard Febel and Stephan Winkler.

Objective

The Salzburg Pocket Opera Festival is a production festival with the special feature that all pieces are not only premiered but performed at least four times in a row. Binding artistic framework conditions are established for each edition: a common thematic starting point, ensemble casting and collaboration with the same director and his dramaturge. This creates a space for discourse both for the artists during the production and for the audience to get to know different compositional choices and to relate them to each other.

The aim is to enrich new music as a contemporary form of expression through theatrical, spatial-aesthetic, medial and experimental extensions and to make it comprehensible to a broad audience.

Conductors' Academy

In the course of Peter Rundel taking over the musical direction, a Conductors' Academy was established in 2019 as part of the Salzburg Pocket Opera Festival. The aim is to provide young conductors with exemplary access to the development of contemporary music theatre, with particular attention to the world premiere situation.

This is to be achieved by involving them as far as possible in the practical musical-scenic work (partly taking over correpetition rehearsals, musical direction of the scenic rehearsals, partial orchestral rehearsals, assisting up to a possible partial direction of the performances). During this process, the conductors will be critically accompanied and guided by the musical director. A pre-selection of a maximum of four to six participants is envisaged, of whom up to a maximum of three can be selected for a partial direction (conducting) of the performance.

Application deadline: 30.07.2025

Applications (CV, www links to conducting videos), subject "Academy" to info@klang21.com

Participation fee: 1.500 €

The Rehearsals and the course with Peter Rundel take place in two separate time periods and places:

17.10.-31.10.2025 Stuttgart (Germany)

04.11.-15.11.2025 Salzburg (Austria)

Performances: 11.-15.2025, at SZENE Salzburg theater, Salzburg, Austria

Questions & further information: info@klang21

Pocket Opera Festival 2025

Elena Mendoza (*1973 in Seville/Spain), Bernd Richard Deutsch (*1977 in Mödling near Vienna), Nikolaus Brass (*1949 in Lindau on Lake Constance) and Vito Zuraj (*1979 in Maribor/Slovenia) have each been commissioned to compose a 15 to 20-minute work for a cappella choir.

The vocal works have the structure and character of a dramatic narrative and become the basis of a theatrical scene for performers/soloists. The music is not intended to set a specific text to music, but to create the mood, dramatic structure and 'energy' of the narrative. The choir is in the orchestra pit and takes over the instrumental part of the music, so to speak, while the performers and soloists act on stage.

The composers of the Taschenopern 2025 should understand the medium of the choir - consisting of 9 soprano, 7 alto, 7 tenor and 7 bass voices - as material and use purely musical means to conceive a music-theatrical scene in which a dramatic conflict sets various situations and processes in motion - or, conversely, situations or processes create a conflict. The position and role of the conflict in the scene is the composer's decision. The chorus can and should be utilised in all its facets, e.g. individual and mass/collective, power, silent majority, uprising, social control. Humour and seduction, betrayal or oppression, emotional states such as anger and fear.

Thomas Mann's novella 'Mario and the Magician', which he wrote in 1930 in the face of burgeoning fascism in Italy and Germany, serves as a point of reference, describing the phenomenon of mass psychology, the seduction of the masses by unscrupulously exercised power and the demise of the autonomy and individuality of the individual.

Against this backdrop, the Salzburg 2025 Pocket Opera Festival poses questions about the upheaval of an atmosphere, about the nature of a turning point, about the power imbalance between the collective and the individual.

SZENE Salzburg

The venue for the Pocket Opera Festival performances and rehearsals is the SZENE Salzburg theatre. For more than 50 years, the independent cultural association SZENE Salzburg has been providing important artistic impulses, presenting cross-border art and creating innovative formats in the city of Salzburg. In 1986 SZENE Salzburg moved into the former city cinema in the heart of the old town on Anton-Neumayr-Platz. With more than 120 events and over 120,000 visitors per year, the multifunctional event venue offers a diverse range of all artistic genres.

www.szene-salzburg.net

Funding

The Salzburg Pocket Opera Festival is funded by the City and Province of Salzburg and the Austrian Ministry of Culture. The Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation supports the 2025 festival with project funding.

Klang21 cannot award funding or scholarships for the Academy. However, we are happy to support applicants with applications to their homebased and local funding organisations or institutions.