

INTERNATIONAL ORGAN IMPROVISATION COMPETITION "ANTON BRUCKNER"

Tuesday & Wednesday, January 30th & 31st, 2024
Brucknerhaus Linz

INTERNATIONAL IMPROVISATION COMPETITION "ORGAN MOVES!"

Thursday, June 6th, 2024
Parish Church of St. Nicholas, Bad Ischl

The new concert organ of the Brucknerhaus Linz, which was inaugurated in September 2018, is due to its symphonic richness of tonal colours particularly suited for the high art of improvisation. In the Bruckner Year 2024, the Brucknerhaus is dedicating an international competition to this supreme discipline of organ music for the second time, and hereby announces the call for entries.

All participants in the main round of the Linz competition have the opportunity to be selected as candidates for the partner competition within the frame of the "Organ moves!" festival, which will take place on June 6th, 2024 (Thursday) in Bad Ischl and will be dedicated to improvised silent film accompaniment. They will have the chance to compete for the prize of the Cultural Capital Bad Ischl – Salzkammergut 2024 "Organ moves!". A separate application for participation in this partner competition is not possible.

We are looking for young organists up to the age of 35 with an independent musical language. The candidates are not required to improvise in historical styles, but to demonstrate versatility and originality through improvisations based on a given visual story, a film excerpt, and musical themes.

Pre-selection

Two required forms:

- Multi-part improvisation with polyphonic elements based on the following theme by Franz Schmidt, which should be freely rhythmised:



- Free form to the following comic strip:



(Good morning! Has injustice on Earth been done away with? / Oh, no? / Then wake me up for lunch!)

The style is free for both forms, with a maximum total duration of 15 minutes.

The submission of improvisations, either on CD or online (uncut [!] recordings; dividing into two files is possible), must be sent by November 1st, 2023, by post to

Brucknerhaus Linz
“Organ Improvisation Competition”
Untere Donaulände 7
4010 Linz
Austria

or by email to JanDavid.Schmitz@liva.linz.at; for postal submissions, the date of the postmark applies.

Jury:

Martin Haselböck
Jeremy Joseph
Martin Riccabona

The jury will select a maximum of twelve participants from the received and subsequently anonymized entries, who will be invited to the main round. The decisions of the jury are binding. Legal recourse is excluded.

The order of rehearsals (on January 28th and 29th, 2024) as well as the performances (on January 30th, 2024) will be determined by drawing lots in advance and will be announced with the invitation to the main round, which will be sent by December 15th, 2023 at the latest.

Preparations/Warm-up Sessions

January 28th and 29th, 2024 (Sunday and Monday)

Each main round participant will have two hours to warm-up on the organ and get familiar with the instrument at the Brucknerhaus Linz. Each participant will receive an access key to save their registrations for the duration of the competition.

Main Round

January 30th, 2024 (Tuesday), 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

12 participants (6 in the morning and 6 in the afternoon, with performances scheduled in 25-minute intervals every 45 minutes)

Two required forms:

- Improvisation on a theme by Anton Bruckner in a clearly structured manner with a strong emphasis on polyphonic elements (approximately 15 minutes)
- Live accompaniment of a silent film (excerpt) (approximately 10 minutes)

The style is free for both forms. The Bruckner theme will be made available to the participants at the beginning of their respective warm-up sessions on January 28th or 29th, 2024. The silent film (excerpt) will be provided to the participants one hour before their warm-up sessions on a tablet, which can later be taken to the organ for performance. During this hour, participants will have access to a piano for preparing the musical accompaniment for the film (excerpt).

The jury will select a maximum of five finalists from the entries, who will perform in the final round according to the order of their performances in the main round. The announcement of the finalists will take place on January 30th, 2024 (Tuesday) around 10:00 p.m. Additionally, based on the participants' performances in live accompaniment of the silent film (excerpt), the jury will select three candidates for the partner competition within the “Organ moves!” festival, which will take place on June 6th, 2024 (Thursday) in Bad Ischl. The announcement of the selected names will only be made during the award ceremony after the final of the International Organ Improvisation Competition “Anton Bruckner” on January 31st, 2024 (Wednesday).

Final Round

January 31st, 2024 (Wednesday)

Each finalist will have 90 minutes for rehearsal on the organ at Brucknerhaus Linz starting from 10:00 a.m. The themes for the final round will be provided at the beginning of each warm-up session.

Final Round (7:00 p.m.):

5 finalists (each with a performance duration of 20–25 minutes)

Free symphonic form (potentially multi-movement) based on a theme by Bruckner and a composed theme by Thomas Daniel Schlee, that can be combined with the Bruckner theme.

The style is free.

Jury:

Peter Planyavsky (Chair)

Zuzana Ferjenčíková

Monica Melcova

David Franke

Thomas Ospital

Prizes

1st Prize: € 4000

2nd Prize: € 2000

3rd Prize: € 1000

The prizes will be awarded after the conclusion of the final round on January 31st, 2024 (Wednesday). Additionally, the announcement will be made regarding which participants in the main round have qualified with their improvisation on a silent film (excerpt) for the competition within the "Organ moves!" festival on June 6th, 2024 (Thursday) in Bad Ischl.

Participation in the International Organ Improvisation Competition "Anton Bruckner" is open to persons who have not reached the age of 36 by the closing date for entries (November 1st, 2023).

Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

Detailed information about the new organ at Brucknerhaus Linz can be found online at <https://www.brucknerhaus.at/en/the-house/organ>.

INTERNATIONAL IMPROVISATION COMPETITION "ORGAN MOVES!" PRIZE OF THE CULTURAL CAPITAL BAD ISCHL – SALZKAMMERGUT 2024

Thursday, June 6th, 2024

The combination of silent film with improvised organ accompaniment has been enjoying immense popularity for quite some time. Therefore, a competition and a small festival will be dedicated to this genre of organ improvisation as part of the events of the Cultural Capital Bad Ischl – Salzkammergut 2024, taking place from June 6th to 8th, 2024 (Thursday to Saturday).

The Parish Church of St. Nikolaus in Bad Ischl is home to one of the country's important romantic instruments, the organ built by Matthäus Mauracher, which was commissioned in 1888 and expanded in 1910, now with 60 registers across three manuals and pedal. Anton Bruckner himself improvised on this organ multiple times. The organ is currently undergoing extensive restoration, scheduled for completion in December 2023.

Further information about the instrument and its current disposition can be found at kirchklang.at/orgel-bad-ischl.

From the 12 participants of the main round of the International Organ Improvisation Competition "Anton Bruckner", which will take place on January 30th and 31st, 2024, 3 candidates will be selected to participate in the partner competition as part of the "Organ moves!" festival. The participants will receive a contribution towards expenses of € 500. Travel and hotel costs up to € 750 will also be reimbursed upon presentation of corresponding receipts.

Each participant will work on the improvisational accompaniment for a silent film lasting approximately 30 minutes. The respective film will be electronically transmitted to the participants on May 31st, 2024 (Friday). On the day before the competition (June 5th, 2024, Wednesday), each participant will be granted four hours of preparation time on the organ, and on the day of the competition itself, a rehearsal/warm-up time of 30 minutes will be allotted. Furthermore, pianos will be available as practice instruments. Each participant will receive an access key to save the registrations for the duration of the competition.

The only round of the competition will take place on June 6th, 2024 (Thursday) starting at 9:00 p.m. A prize of € 4000 will be awarded.

Jury:

Thierry Escaich

Jeremy Joseph

Eva Sangiorgi

The "Organ moves!" Festival

June 6th, 2024: International Improvisation Competition "Organ moves!"

June 7th, 2024: Thierry Escaich accompanies the silent film *Metropolis* (Germany, 1927)

June 8th, 2024: Jeremy Joseph accompanies the silent film *The Phantom of the Opera* (USA, 1925)

A collaboration between the Cultural Capital Bad Ischl – Salzkammergut 2024, KIRCH'KLANG Festival, and Brucknerhaus Linz