

URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT

Gustav Mahler's World of Songs – an Acrobatic Journey

Created by Yaron Lifschitz with Franui Musicbanda, Circa Ensemble and children and young people of GmC lighthouse

Bad Goisern | Bad Ischl, March 18, 2024

A unique encounter between the internationally renowned Austrian Musicbanda FRANUI from Innervillgraten in East Tyrol and the worldwide acclaimed Australian Circa Contemporary Circus from Brisbane as a scenic and musical rediscovery of the universe of Gustav Mahler's songs. Under the direction and choreography of Australian director and artistic director of Circa Yaron Lifschitz – visionary of contemporary circus – and the musical direction of Musicbanda FRANUI mastermind Andreas Schett, the Australian star acrobats create body worlds and sculptures to the incomparable Mahler song interpretations of Musicbanda FRANUI as an extraordinary music theatre event and scenic rediscovery of the great Austrian composer. Children and young people from Bad Goisern and the region take also to the stage in this extraordinary music theatre project. Entitled as "GOISERN macht CIRCUS", over hundred children and young people got a taste of circus air in Bad Goisern as acrobats, clowns and artists for the tenth time in summer 2023. Some of them now have the unique opportunity to take part in URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT – Gustav Mahler's world of songs – an acrobatic journey as part of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 and to further develop their artistic talents. Rehearsals with Circa and the Goisern "circus apprentices" under their company name GmC lighthouse start on March 24 in Bad Goisern. From April 1st, rehearsals will take place at the Kongress&TheaterHaus Bad Ischl. After the world premiere in Bad Ischl, further performances are planned with co-production partners in Luxembourg, Spoleto and elsewhere.

"What Franui achieves with Mahler, Circa does with circus – recompose from the traditions, respectful but innovative, searching for new kinds of poetry. Together in URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT we aim to create a symphony of bodies and music that is as thrilling as it is moving".

Yaron Lifschitz, Circa

"Circa meets FRANUI and Gustav Mahler's world of songs. Contemporary circus, modern music and classical music are exciting new protagonists in international music theater, which director visionary Yaron Lifschitz and his company Circa have already enriched several times with visual flights of fancy in Australian opera houses. He wanted to work with FRANUI Musicbanda, Yaron told me four years ago in Melbourne. URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT has embarked on a long journey from Australia to Austria, which will not end but begin with the world premiere at the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024."

Brigitte Fürle, Curator, URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT

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Image Circa © Paul Bourdrel, courtesy Kulturhauptstadt Europas Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024

Press Inquiries, Press Tickets, Rehearsals, Interviews c.werner@salzkammergut-2024.at,

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Photomaterial

Kongress & TheaterHaus Bad Ischl Kurhausstraße 8, 4820 Bad Ischl

Press Talk with Rehearsal Insight Thursday, April 04, 2024, 4 pm

In the Presence of Yaron Lifschitz, director and choreographer, Andreas Schett, musical director, Leopold Schilcher, Mayor of Bad Goisern, Elisabeth Schweeger, Artistic Managing Director and Brigitte Fürle, curator

World Premiere (already sold out) Saturday, April 06, 2024, 7.30 pm (admission: 6.30 pm with artist talk introduction in the foyer)

Additional performance due to high demand Sunday, April 07, 2024, 3 pm (admission: 2 pm)

Tickets from € 27 – € 98 Regular Price

Information Duration 70 Minuten

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„Gustav Mahler is our neighbour. From our childhood and Franui founding village Innervillgraten Toblach, where Mahler spent the last three summers of his life, is situated just one mountain behind. When we listen to his music, we feel connected to him like family: in all its turns (still in it's most sublime moments a brass band crosses the score) in it's contemporaneity of sobriety and terrestrial laughter, in the existence of diverse thoughts and feelings in one and the same moment. Nothing is more beautiful than to bring together this music from inner alpine region with the visual worlds of bodies of Circa“.

Andreas Schett, Franui

The musical cosmos of Gustav Mahler's Lieder and Franui's unique and unmatched interpretations of Mahler's music will create the acrobatic worlds and landscapes for the bodies of Circa's acrobats to inhabit with outstanding movement and precision. This will be a concert of new perceptions – music theatre for large scale audiences across generations celebrating the great Austrian composer.

„From tradition to the present day: Franui, internationally renowned for its interpretation of classical music through the style of folk music, is always looking for a challenge with the most diverse artistic actors: here with the Australian artist troupe Circa, which in turn reinterprets the old tradition of the circus: A special pairing – the arts in transition.“

Elisabeth Schweeger, Artistic Director, European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024

Musicbanda FRANUI – transformer station between classical, folk, jazz and contemporary chamber music

The 10 musicians of Musicbanda FRANUI see themselves as a "transformer station between classical, folk, jazz and contemporary chamber music"; sometimes the classical template is lovingly celebrated in all its beauty, sometimes it is turned upside down (or vice versa), skeletonized, enriched, painted over, rethought. The boundaries between interpretation, improvisation, arrangement and (re-)composition become blurred. For URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT, they have arranged songs mainly from Mahler's song cycles "Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen", "Des Knaben Wunderhorn" and "Rückert-Lieder".

"Goisern makes Circus“ exists for 10 years and now THIS! The European Capital of Culture makes it possible – GmC lighthouse: a step for children from Goisern onto the big stage and they will get a taste of circus air at world level. Circus is where the arts come together and I am delighted that Franui/Circa and GmC lighthouse will make Gustav Mahler shine in the production URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT. Clear the stage!"

Leopold Schilcher, Mayor of Bad Goisern

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Musicbanda FRANUI © Julia Stix, courtesy Kulturhauptstadt Europas Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024

URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT

Gustav Mahler's World of Songs – an Acrobatic Journey

Kongress & TheaterHaus Bad Ischl

World Premiere | April 6, 2024 | 7.30 pm

Additional Show | April 7, 2024 | 3.00 pm

Created by Yaron Lifschitz with Franui Musicbanda, Circa Ensemble and GmC lighthouse

URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT

Director/Choreography/Light Yaron Lifschitz

Musical Director Andreas Schett

Arrangements/Composition Markus Kraler / Andreas Schett

Costume Designer Libby McDonnell

Head of Wardrobe Anna Handford

Head of Production Circa Mark Middleton

Executive Producer Circa Danielle Kellie

Head of Sound Stefan Schett

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Circa Performers Rhiannon Cave-Walker, Asha Colless, Maya Davies, Martin Evans, Scott Grove, Chelsea Hall, Samuel Letch, Daniel O'Brien, Adam Strom, Christina Zauner

Musicbanda FRANUI Mahlerlieder, Johannes Eder (clarinet, bass clarinet), Andreas Fuetsch (Tuba), Romed Hopfgartner (sopran & alt saxophon, clarinet), Markus Kraler (contrabass, accordion), Angelika Rainer (harp, zither, vocals), Bettina Rainer (dulcimer, vocals), Patrik Hofer (trumpet, vocals), Andreas Schett (trumpet, vocals), Martin Senfter (trombone, vocals), Nikolai Tunkowitsch (violin)

GmC lighthouse Anna Albeseder, Lea-Lou Blaas, Jonas Brunbauer, Felix Gschwendtner, Amalia Herzog, Ksana Körner, Simon Miller, Valentin Pilz, Ronja Schilcher, Lina Schmarantzer, Elisabeth Shammout, Salma Shammout, Michelle Warner, Alma Wellenger, Ylvie Zopf

Curator Brigitte Fürle

Projectmanagement Celestine Kubelka

Coproduction European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 with Circa, Franui Musicbanda, GmC lighthouse, Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Spoleto Festival dei Due Mondi.

Circa acknowledges the assistance of the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



Yaron Lifschitz Director

Yaron Lifschitz is a graduate of University of New South Wales, University of Queensland and National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA) in Sydney, where he was the youngest director ever accepted into its graduate director's course. Since graduating Yaron has directed over 60 productions, including large scale events, opera, theatre, and circus. His work has won numerous awards including six Helpmann awards and the Australian Theatre Award. His productions have been presented at major festivals and venues including BAM Brooklyn Academy of Music, NYC, the Barbican, London, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Lyon, Chamäleon Theater Berlin, Edinburgh International Festival, Avignon Festival and all major Australian festivals. His work as filmdirector was presented at filmfestivals like Berlinale or Melbourne Film Festival. He was founding Artistic Director of the Australian Museum's Theatre Unit, Head Tutor in Directing at Australian Theatre for Young people and has been regular guest tutor at NIDA. Currently Yaron Lifschitz is Artistic Director and CEO of Circa Contemporary Circus. His recent works include *Beethoven 9* (2020), *Leviathan* (2020), *Humans 2.0* (2021), *Sacre* (2021), *María de Buenos Aires* (2021) and *On By Circa* (2022), *Peepshow (Club Remix)* (2023), *Duck Pond* (2023) and *Eternity* (2023).

Circa Contemporary Circus

Circa Contemporary Circus is one of the world's leading performance companies. Since 2004, from their base in Brisbane, Australia, Circa has toured the world – performing in more than 45 countries in front of nearly 2 million people. Circa's works have been greeted with standing ovations, rave reviews and sold-out houses across six continents. Circa is at the forefront of the new wave of contemporary Australian circus – pioneering how extreme physicality can create powerful and moving performances. It continues to push the boundaries of the art form, blurring the lines between movement, dance, theatre and circus. Fuelled by the question 'what is possible in circus?' Circa is leading the way with a diverse range of thrilling creations that "redraw the limits to

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which circus can aspire." (The Age). Under the direction of circus visionary Yaron Lifschitz, Circa features an ensemble of exceptional, multi-skilled circus artists. Circa is a regular fixture at leading festivals and venues in New York, London, Berlin and Montreal with seasons at Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Barbican Centre, Les Nuits de Fourvière, Chamäleon Theatre as well as major Australian Festivals. Circa is committed to fostering the next generation of circus artists and run [Circa Academy](#) from our studio in Brisbane and runs also regular circus programs with communities throughout Queensland and around Australia. As a champion of live performance, Circa has been the Creative Lead for the [Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games arts and cultural program](#). Under the artistic direction of Yaron Lifschitz Circa's repertoire includes *Beethoven9* (2020), *Leviathan* (2020), *Humans 2.0* (2021), *Sacre* (2021), *On By Circa* (2022), *Peepshow (Club Remix)* 2023, *Duck Pond* (2023), *Eternity* (2023). In June 2022 the company collaborated with Tonkünstler Orchestra of Lower Austria, Wiener Singverein on *Beethoven 9*. The Artists were met with standing ovations and sold out performances at Festspielhaus St. Pölten which celebrated the memorable farewell of longterm Artistic Director Brigitte Fürle.

FRANUI Musicbanda Franui is the name of a very specific alpine meadow in the small East Tyrolean village of Innervillgraten, 1402 meters above sea level, where most of the musicians of Franui grew up. The word is of Rhaeto-Romanic origin and refers to the geographical proximity of Innervillgraten to the Ladin-speaking area in the Dolomites. The music band of the same name has been playing with an almost unchanged line-up since 1993 and has been a guest at many festivals and concert organizers (including Vienna Konzerthaus, Burgtheater Vienna, Salzburg Festival, Bregenz Festival, Ruhrtriennale, Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin, Munich Opera Festival, Isarphilharmonie Munich, Philharmonie Cologne, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Schauspielhaus Zurich, Holland Festival, Klarafestival Brussels, Opera Lyon, Philharmonie de Paris) and with its new interpretations of songs by Schubert, Schumann, Brahms and Mahler, Musicbanda Franui has become known beyond Austria's borders. The ensemble sees itself as a "transformer between classical music, folk music, jazz and contemporary chamber music"; sometimes the classical original is lovingly celebrated in all its beauty, sometimes it is turned on its head (or vice versa), skeletonized, enriched, painted over, rethought. The boundaries between interpretation, improvisation, arrangement and (re-)composition become blurred. In their concerts and music theatre productions, the musicians often team up with outstanding stage partners such as the baritone Florian Boesch, the puppeteer Nikolaus Habjan, the Viennese song duo "Die Strottern", the mask theater ensemble "Familie Flöz", the Bavarian Radio Choir, the video artist Jonas Dahlberg, the filmmaker and author Alexander Kluge, the cabaret duo Maschek, the contemporary circus of "Circa" and the actors Regina Fritsch, Dörte Lyssewski, Dagmar Manzel, Sven-Eric Bechtolf and Wolfram Berger. Since 2015, Franui has been organizing the annual "Gemischter Satz" festival at the Wiener Konzerthaus in May, where music, visual arts, literature, and wine are presented in a new interplay, and Franui's sound recordings are released on the col legno label and have won several awards. "Ständchen der Dinge", the album celebrating the ensemble's 25th birthday, received the German Record Critics' Award in 2018. To celebrate its 30th birthday, the Musicbanda initiated the highly successful "Hoch Kultur Festival", which attracted around 7,000 visitors to the Unterstaller Alm (1673m) in Innervillgraten over three days.

Brigitte Fürle Curator & Creative Producer

Artistic Director Festspielhaus St. Pölten 2013 – 2022 and spielzeit'europa, theatre and dance season of the Berliner Festspiele 2006 – 2012. Dramaturge and driving force for new forms of theatre at the Wiener Festwochen series Big Motion 1990 -1998. Curator of the Young Director's Project at the Salzburg Festival

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2001-2003. Dramaturg Bayerisches Staatsschauspiel and schauspiel frankfurt 2001 – 2006, curator of the Union des Théâtres de l'Europe festival 2005. Journalist and lecturer for new forms of theatre at the Institute for Theatre, Film and Media Studies, University of Vienna. 2023 Artistic advisor of the red bridge project I Lemi Ponifasio in Luxembourg. Since 2012 International Artistic Advisor of the festival Fundación Teatro A Mil in Santiago de Chile.

GOISERN macht CIRCUS has been organizing an annual circus workshop week for children and young people in the summer for ten years, with a brilliant performance in the circus tent for over 100 participants. Continuous training and an annual circus festival are visions of the cultural future of Bad Goisern and Mayor Leopold Schilcher. The participation of fifteen "circus apprentices" (GmC lighthouse) from Bad Goisern, Bad Ischl and the region in the world premiere URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT by Circa and Franui Musicbanda is now a brilliant highlight and new start for the future of "GOISERN macht CIRCUS".



GmC lighthouse Training © Michael Körner, courtesy Kulturhauptstadt Europas Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024

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