

THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

Forum for young composers

Young composers have a particular need for experimentation and collaboration with professional musicians in order to further develop their personal style and craftsmanship. Ultimately performance of a composition remains the most important necessity in the development of a young composer.

With the annual project THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN', HERMESensemble offers a unique opportunity to young composers (age 12-20 years) to send in their compositions, and to experiment with composing techniques, sounds and timbres during rehearsals. Furthermore, participants are coached intensively by professional composers (Hanne Deneire, Mathias Coppens and Bram Van Camp).

THE TIMES culminates in a final concert in the AMUZ concert hall in Antwerp. Professional video and audio recordings are made at this concert.

Although there is ample room for musical experiment throughout the various sessions of the project, a finished and 'performance-proof' score is expected from the participants (possibly with tape or live-electronics), which is adjusted and developed in collaboration with the coaches during the rehearsal process.

Submitted compositions are selected by a professional jury. In addition to qualitative criteria, preference is given to scores which are also challenging for the ensemble.

Nevertheless, THE TIMES is anything but a contest: it is an annual forum for young composers, where each participant has the opportunity to learn and evolve. Participants who were not selected, are encouraged to attend the rehearsals and receive personal feedback on their submission. In the past this often led to new insights, allowing participants to be selected in the next edition.

HISTORY

THE TIMES THEY ARE a-CHANGIN' was organised for the first time in 2008 under the impetus of composer Bram Van Camp – at that time 'composer in residence' of HERMESensemble – in collaboration with AMUZ music center and De Veerman, organisation for arts education.

THE TIMES currently looks back on seven editions, in which participants regularly returned after previous experiences, evolving into pre-professional composers.

The list of alumni now proves that THE TIMES has become a great incentive and inspiration for the future generation of composing musicians in our country. Among the alumni composers, improvisers, conductors and performers as well as committed art lovers are found.

PRACTICALITIES

- subscription: annually in November
- score submission: annually first Monday after the Christmas Holidays
- selection: annually first week after the Christmas Holidays
- working sessions: annually January-February
- concert performance: annually February

THE TIMES THEY ARE a-CHANGIN' is a project by HERMESensemble in collaboration with:

AMUZ

De Veerman

Forum des Compositeurs

Musica

THE TIMES THEY ARE a-CHANGIN' is supported by the Flemish Government and the City of Antwerp.