

Grant for Operacomposition

Invitation to apply for a Composition and Doctorate (PhD) Scholarship

The Claussen-Simon-Foundation, in cooperation with the Hamburg State Opera and the Institut für kulturelle Innovationsforschung at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg (HfMT), announces - for the third time - a two-year composition and doctoral scholarship (opera scholarship) starting October 1, 2022. The scholarship includes monthly funding of a maximum of 1,500 euros as part of the Claussen-Simon-Foundation's Dissertation Plus funding program (www.claussen-simon-stiftung.de/dissertationplus/).

The artistic part of the dissertation consists of the composition of a full-length chamber opera, which is to be premiered at the opera stabile of the Hamburg State Opera in the 2024/25 season. The research thesis explores the work created in this context with the help of an artistic-academic research method.

Who can apply?

The scholarship is open to composers up to the age of 35, regardless of nationality. Relatives in a straight line and spouses of jury members are excluded from the competition. The composer must reside in Hamburg during the scholarship period.

How and when is the decision on the awarding of the scholarship made??

A jury nominates a composer in a two-stage selection process. In the first round, a small number of applicants will be selected on the basis of the submitted documents and invited to a personal interview. The selection for the second stage will be communicated at the end of May 2022. The second round selection interviews will take place on June 23, 2022. After nomination by the jury, the composer must be accepted by the doctoral committee of the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg (meeting on June 29, 2022) for an artistic-academic doctorate with the intended degree Doctor scientiae musicae. Only then can the scholarship start on October 1, 2022.

Requirements for the academic work

The current doctoral and study regulations for the academic degree Doctor scientiae musicae (<https://www.hfmt-hamburg.de/forschung-und-promotion/promotion/dr-sc-mus/>) apply to admission to doctoral studies at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg. A completed master's degree is required, as well as proof of qualification for academic or artistic research work, which entitles the candidate to a doctorate. We are looking for a candidate who demonstrates outstanding skills in contemporary music theater production, has an above-average level of reflection, and is particularly interested in pursuing a doctorate. In this context, the composer is required to report regularly on the progress of the doctorate in the corresponding doctoral colloquia of the HfMT. Prof. Dr. Reinhard Flender is responsible for the academic supervision of the scholarship holder. The supervision of the compositional process is carried out by Prof. Fredrik Schwenk.

Requirements for the composition

The applicant should have experience with the composition of a larger work. The composition of a full-length chamber opera for the opera stabile venue of the Hamburg State Opera is expected, taking into account the artistic, personnel, technical and financial conditions there with regard to the realization of the work. Therefore, the composer is expected to keep the State Opera

continuously informed about the progress of their work, to coordinate with the State Opera and to be accessible for suggestions.

Instrumentation:

- Max. five instrumentalists, mainly from the classical orchestral apparatus.
- Up to six singers from the following vocal ranges: two sopranos, one mezzo-soprano, two tenors, one baritone, two basses.
- No choir, no special performers

The final casting decision is the responsibility of the State Opera. The work to be composed must be unpublished, i.e., it must not have been publicly performed, broadcasted, printed, or otherwise reproduced or distributed, and must not be subject to the rights of any third party. The composer must be prepared to transfer to the State Opera the rights customary and necessary for the performance, in particular the exclusive right to give the work its first performance. The score will be marked: Commissioned work of the Hamburg State Opera. The willingness of the composer to be present at rehearsals is expected.

Application documents

The application must be submitted digitally by e-mail by 1.5.2022. The following documents are required:

- A meaningful letter of motivation (approx. two pages, max. 8,000 characters).
- Proof of a master's degree or a comparable university degree that entitles the holder to doctoral studies
- A concept for the planned composition (approx. three pages, max. 12,000 characters)
- A meaningful curriculum vitae
- Two expert opinions or letters of recommendation
- Some work samples from comparable musical works as well as from written/scholarly works

Please send the application documents excluding the work samples bundled as one PDF document (max. 10 MB) to Dr. Jenny Svensson: svensson@claussen-simon-stiftung.de

Please send the work samples in a separate PDF (max. 10 MB). You may provide audio/video files and large scores via a web or download link (e.g. YouTube, SoundCloud or via WeTransfer).

In addition, please send the application documents (without work samples) by mail to the Claussen-Simon-Foundation (postmark 30.4.2022). Please understand that we cannot return any documents.

All current information on the call for applications can be found at:

www.claussen-simon-stiftung.de/opernstipendium/

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

Claussen-Simon-Stiftung

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