

German composer and conductor **Jonathan Stark** made his stage debut in 2014, performing his ensemble piece *Canvas* with the Atlas Ensemble in Amsterdam's Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ during the Atlas Festival.

Even as a teenager, Stark had enjoyed success in numerous competitions (Bundeswettbewerb Komposition der Jeunesses Musicales 2009, Orchesterwerkstatt junger Komponisten Halberstadt 2010, Jugend musiziert 2011, Jugend komponiert BW 2011, Künstlerischer Wettbewerb der Gesellschaft für Musiktheorie 2013, International Music Competition "Heirs of Orpheus" 2013 in Albena (Bulgaria), Platypus Ensemble Call for Scores in Vienna 2014). Consequently, the young artist could gain important experience at an early age, collaborating with groups such as Ensemble Phorminx (Darmstadt), Das Neue Ensemble (Hanover) and Platypus Ensemble (Vienna). Between 2010 and 2014 he was awarded the Andreas-Werckmeister-Preis by the city of Halberstadt, along with the silver and gold music medals by the city of Lahr, and, as a scholarship holder of the regional music council of Baden-Württemberg, he took lessons in composition from Jan Kopp in Stuttgart. These developments culminated at the start of 2014, when *Stark*, with his composition "...was er für ihn genommen...", was selected as the only European to take part in the New Works By Emerging Composers Workshop run by S.E.M. Ensemble (artistic director: Petr Kotik) in New York City.

Immediately after his debut in Amsterdam, Jonathan Stark was invited by the Goethe Institute to travel to the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, to perform his commission *In Touch* with the Omnibus Ensemble (artistic director: Artyom Kim) in the Ilkhom Theatre there. Indeed, working in inter-cultural and historical contexts plays a key role in Stark's oeuvre, not just in the ensemble piece *Sterne der Nacht* (2013), which draws on texts by Inge Auerbacher, but also in the song-cycle *Passageway* (texts by Franziska Haß), which discusses the current issue of refugees. The premiere of *Passageway* took place in 2017 at Opera America in New York City, performed by Stephanie Weiss (mezzo-soprano) and Christina Wright-Ivanova (piano). The same duo also performed *Passageway* within the CMS International Conference in Sydney in summer 2017.

Jonathan Stark is currently completing musical training in Vienna under Andreas Stoehr (conducting) and Gesine Schröder (theory of music). Prior to this, he completed early study in piano under Tomislav Nedelkovic-Baynov in Trossingen, and preparatory lessons in conducting under Yuji Yuasa at Vienna's University for Music and Performing Arts, where he also studied under Martin Lichtfuss. His main artistic influences have originated from his composition teacher, Christian Wenzel. Stark has completed masterclasses led by Hans Zender, Isabel Mundry, Johannes Schöllhorn, Martin Christoph Redel, Violeta Dinescu, Dieter Mack, Annette Schlünz, Peter Fender and Axel Gremmelspacher, among others. In the summer of 2016 he participated in the Composition Program of the Atlantic Music Festival in Waterville, Maine, where his mentors included Robert Paterson, David Ludwig, Hannah Lash, Robert Cuckson, Pierre Jalbert, Ken Ueno, George Tsantakis and Donald Crockett.

In addition to his work as a composer and conductor, Jonathan Stark regularly gives lectures at international conferences and symposia, including at the annual congress of the association of German-speaking Music Theory 2016 in Hanover and EuroMAC 2017 in *Strasbourg*. Jonathan Stark's compositions are published by the Donemus publishing house, from The Hague. He has been a member of the Board of the association of German-speaking Music Theory (GMTH) since October 2016.

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