

Artist in Residence

Charlotte Seither, the well-known and celebrated Berlin-based composer, will be taking up residency at the jozi art:lab, Johannesburg in July. During her stay in South Africa, Seither will also be the guest composer at the New Music Indaba 2015 in Bloemfontein.



Charlotte Seither (born 1965 in Landau, Germany) is the first German composer to be awarded the first prize in the International Composition Contest Prague Spring. In 2009, she was awarded the Rome Prize of the German Academy Villa Massimo and lived and worked for one year in the Italian capital. In 1998, she received a Doctor of Philosophy degree and is a frequently asked jury member of international competitions and committees. Seither has been a guest at many international festivals like Generations Festival Warschau, Gaudeamus Amsterdam, Gramme Lyon, Wien Modern or IFWM Seoul. The composer has received many honours and prizes, including first prize in the International Composition Contest Ciutat de Palma, Spain, in 2004, the Förderpreis of the Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung and the Praetorius Musikpreis for Composition in 2010. She has lived and worked as Artist in Residence in the Cité des Arts, Paris (1999); in the Academy Solitude Castle, Stuttgart (1995); in the Palazzo Barbarigo, Venice (1993); at Civitella Ranieri, Italy and in the Villa Aurora, Los Angeles (2000). In 2013, Seither's orchestral piece *Language of Leaving* (2012/13) had its world premiere with the BBC Symphony Orchestra London and the BBC

Singers at the BBC Proms, which was broadcast live from Royal Albert Hall.

During the New Music Indaba in Bloemfontein, Seither will be holding outreach workshops, and her works *Dreizehn Verwehungen Guedes*, *Seule avec des Ombres*, *Firnis III* and *Far From Distance* will be performed by Liesl Stoltz and Douglas Scott, as well as Morné van Heerden (Clarinet), Marguerite Spies (Cello) and Kathleen Tagg (Piano).

Whilst in Johannesburg, Seither will also be giving lectures and master classes at Wits University. Also on her agenda while visiting South Africa, is a much-anticipated collaboration with Jill Richards, which will hopefully culminate in the world premiere of *Ask him!*

When asked what she is expecting of her time in South Africa, Seither readily shared her ideas, 'I really feel very curious about my first visit to the country! Over the last few years, I have met some authors and visual artists from South Africa and have learned a lot about their art. As a musician, I am especially keen to get in contact with the vocal music culture of South Africa. Since music for voice is very important to me, I want to see how people handle their voices and what the languages sound like if you listen to them with the ear of a composer – and from the perspective of an outsider. I want to hear what sounds the country will bring to my ears.

'I look forward to meeting people, to get in contact with institutions and other artists and, importantly, to enjoy these encounters.

'During my time in South Africa, it is more important for me to listen than to produce. I want to collect material and see what will happen with it when I am back in Germany. It remains to be seen if the commission pieces, which I have to create after my journey, will be influenced by my trip, or in what way this may happen. I am not worried about that at the moment. Our subconscious is incredibly large, as well as powerful and unpredictable. I just want to "celebrate the life" during my stay, regarding and listening to what I come across.'

For more information on the New Music Indaba 2015, visit www.newmusic.org.za. **CF**