

Education Programme 2008/2009

The school's headmistress, Jutta Wübben, comments on opus21musikplus's education programme as follows: "We have been convinced by Ms Gourzi's ability to inspire others, her mastery of her art, and her professionalism. She does not only understand how to enthuse the children about music, but also how to be particularly integrative. She is able to boost the confidence of pupils with low self-esteem. It was a pleasure to watch the development of the project. I am very happy and grateful for the fact that Ms Gourzi will continue to work with my pupils. It is absolutely in the interests of their creative and psychological development."

At the start of 2008, Konstantia Gourzi began to work – together with the artists from opus21musikplus - with the second-year pupils of the primary school at Klenzestrasse 48. In their education workshops, they introduced, explained and performed contemporary music and new compositions. One aspect was particularly important: each education workshop needed to be surprising for the children, connected with a specific creative challenge. At the heart of the work stood the sensuous experience of contemporary music. This is about grasping the music in every sense: touching the instruments, feeling their shape, blowing into them and getting sounds out of them. The children were able further to express their associations with the music in special music books, with pens, paints and chalk.

To conclude the education programme, two concerts took place in the summer of 2009. They were called Small Flying Carpet, and involved a world premiere. Enjott Schneider, one of the best-known German film music composers (for example, for "Herbstmilch", "23", "Schlafes Bruder" and "Charlie and Louise – das doppelte Lottchen"), was impressed by Konstantia Gourzi's work with the children and so composed the crowning work. He dedicated his composition Four Elements: Miniatures for Septet or Chamber Orchestra to Konstantia Gourzi and to the primary pupils' dance concert. Because the pupils dance, play and conduct the music, the score contains a special notation system with directions for the children. For example, the earth element is full of physicality, such as jumping up, stamping and clapping. Water is made to flow, in 6/8 time, by the children rubbing paper, cardboard or newspapers. The air gently rustles and swooshes, and for fire, the music becomes really loud: percussive, rhythmic and full of energy. For the head choreographer of the Gärtnerplatz theatre, Hans Henning Paar (from the TanzTheater München), the most fundamental thing about dance is to understand it as an expression of life, regardless of whether it be emotional or intellectual, or concerns itself with abstract, sensuous or narrative discourse. Similarly, opus21musikplus's education programme is about getting to grips with music with all your senses.

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