

Wendelin Bitzan

Biography

Musician | Composer | Researcher in music

www.wendelinbitzan.de

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Wendelin Bitzan, PhD, born 1982 in Geseke (North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany), is a musician, composer, and researcher in music. Academic studies in music at the Detmold University of Music (from 2003) and Berlin University of the Arts (from 2005). Exchange semester at the Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts (2009). Graduation from the Berlin University of the Arts, College of Music, with degrees in music education, majoring in piano performance (2009), sound engineering (2010), and music theory (2010). Subsequent teaching assignments and lecturerships in ear training, harmony, counterpoint, analysis, and music and media at the Berlin University of the Arts, Rostock University of Music and Drama, Detmold University of Music, Hanns Eisler School of Music, and Humboldt University of Berlin. Lecturer in music theory at the Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf, Institute of Musicology (from 2018). Appearances as a collaborative pianist, vocal accompanist, and performer of own compositions. PhD in musicology at the Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts (2019) with a dissertation on the piano sonatas of Russian composer Nikolai Medtner, supervised by Christoph Flamm and Martin Eybl.

Initial musical inspiration through playing the glockenspiel, recorder, and accordion. **Piano lessons** since the age of 10 with composer and music educator Lajos Papp (Oldenburg), from 1996 with concert pianist Almut Preuß-Niemeyer (Hannover). Master classes with Beatrice Berthold (Hannover) and Hans Leygraf (Salzburg). Participation in competitions *Jugend musiziert*, *Jugend komponiert*, and other national music competitions; numerous awards on state and federal level (piano solo, chamber music, art song). Piano studies during university with professors Matitjahu Kellig, Wilhelm von Grunelius, and Thomas Menrath. **Voice** lessons as a second subject; member of the chamber choir of the Berlin University of the Arts and of other a-cappella or choral-symphonic ensembles. Essential stimuli from **music theory** and analysis classes of Hartmut Fladt and Stefan Prey. Scholarship holder of the Richard Wagner Association, Minden, and the Keller Budenberg Foundation, Berlin. Internships at music schools, at the Berlin-Brandenburg public radio station, at classical music label Genuin recording group (Leipzig), and microphone manufacturer Georg Neumann Ltd. (Berlin).

Activity as a **composer** since 1999, after an intense phase of electronic dance music productions. Compositions in the genres of chamber music (duos for wind and stringed instruments with piano, two string quartets, a piano trio, a woodwind trio and quintet), piano music (four sonatas, two fantasies, 24 preludes, several other cycles) and vocal music (a chamber opera after Oscar Wilde; songs on texts by Stefan George, Alfred Brendel, J. R. R. Tolkien, as well as numerous choral works). Performances in Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Slovenia, South Korea, New Zealand, Mexico, and the United States. Commissioned works for performers and institutions, frequent audio recordings of own compositions.

Research currently focusing on Russian music of the 19th and 20th centuries, piano cycles and piano sonatas, historical theories of sonata form, and Renaissance counterpoint. Author of several papers related to music theory and music education, published in books, conference proceedings, journals, and other periodicals. Publication of the book *Learning and playing by heart. On memorizing in music* (Frankfurt am Main, 2010). Conference papers for the German and Russian music theory societies (GMTH, OTM), the Gesellschaft für Musikforschung (GfM), the European Piano Teachers Association (ETPA), and the European Music Analysis Conference (EuroMAC). Freelance work as an author, composer, and arranger for various clients in publishing and music business. Numerous record and concert reviews; author of introductions to concerts, editor of music-related websites and livestream transmissions; music notation, score writing, and arrangement jobs.