

BIOGRAPHY

Studies

Born on July 26th, 1981 in Vienna, Austria, Thomas Wally studied composition and violin at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. His professors included Dietmar Schermann, Erich Urbanner and Chaya Czernowin (composition) and Josef Hell (violin). He graduated in 2008 with distinction (violin and composition). He also received the first diploma in musicology at the University of Vienna. During 2005–2006, he spent an exchange year at the Sibelius Akatemia Helsinki as a composition student of Paavo Heininen, and as a violin student of Erkki Kantola and Päivyt Meller. He has attended violin master classes with Dimetrius Polizoides, Hanna Weinmeister and Volkhard Steude. In March 2007 he participated in the composers workshop „Across the Frontiers“ at the Bregenzer Festspiele.

Competitions/Awards/Scholarships

In 2004 Thomas Wally won a composition competition for string quartet compositions at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. As a result, his **4 Bagatellen** became the obligatory piece for participants in the II. International Joseph Haydn Chamber Music Competition. In 2005 he was a finalist at the Jeunesses Musicales composition competition Bucharest with his composition **Verästlungen** for 19 solo strings. In May 2008 he won the 3rd prize in the international music+culture composers competition (USA), with his piece **impressions...en relief** for piano solo. In 2009 he received the Austrian State Scholarship for Composition and won the Helmut Sohmen Composition Competition with his violin concerto **...und ein einziger Ton weinte in einem Frühling...**. In 2010 he was awarded the „Outstanding Artist Award – Music 2010“ by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture. In 2012 he again received the Austrian State Scholarship for Composition and was awarded the Förderungspreis of the City of Vienna. He was one of the finalists at the 9th international composition competition Città di Udine. Thomas Wally is one of the prizewinners at the Toru Takemitsu Composition Award 2015. His composition **loop fantasy** for orchestra was awarded the 2nd prize by the juror Kaija Saariaho after the premiere by the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra at the Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall on May 31st 2015. In 2016 he received a Theodor Körner Förderpreis for his composition **Caprice (VII) ultrajaune**. Thomas Wally is recipient of the Musik-Preis der Stadt Wien 2016 („Music Prize of the City of Vienna“). In 2018 he received the Austrian State Scholarship for Composition for the third time. His composition **cycle: 25 easy pieces** (2014-2016) was awarded the Ernst-Krenek-Preis der Stadt Wien (2020).

Recordings

Several recordings document Thomas Wally's work as a composer. A new version of **Transfigurations**, recorded by Maxim Brilinsky (violin), Stefan Neubauer (clarinet), Bartosz Sikorski (double bass) and Johannes Piirto (piano), was released by Hänssler Classic in spring 2023. 2021 „Yoru no Kotoba“ was released by the Japanese label ALM Records; Thomas Wally's contribution to this CD is **Cinq regards sur Noh** (2019) for Noh voice and violoncello, recorded by Ryoko Aoki and Eric-Maria Couturier. In June 2020 a portrait CD, containing six chamber music compositions, was released by the Austrian label col legno, recorded by the Swiss Mondrian Ensemble at the ORF RadioKulturhaus Vienna. In 2015, **Hommash. Caprice (V) anglois – assez vicieux** for ensemble was released as part of „Exploring the World“ (Ensemble Reconsil, orlando records). In 2014, the piano trio **Caprice (VI) mosaïque** was recorded by Trio Frühstück for the Austrian label Gramola.

Past Performances/Radio Broadcasts

Thomas Wally's music has been performed in Vienna by the Hugo Wolf Quartet (in the Konzerthaus Vienna), by PHACE, by the Zalodek Ensemble (Gustav Mahler-Saal, Vienna State Opera), by ensemble LUX (at Wien Modern 2008, 2010 and 2013), by airborne extended, Ensemble Reconsil, Ensemble Wiener Collage, Ensemble Kontrapunkte, the Wiener Concert-Verein, Trio Frühstück, Ensemble Platypus, Webern Symphonie Orchester and Nouvelle Cuisine Big Band. At the European Forum Alpbach 2015 Klangforum Wien premiered **jeux éoliens III**. In Bregenz, his work was performed by Ensemble Plus, at KAZ fast forward 2007 by members of the London Contemporary Opera and by ensemble LUX at the Bregenzer Festspiele 2008. Other performances include: at the Chamber Music Festival Bad Ischl 2007, Klangspuren 2009 by Trio EIS, in Graz (Ensemble Zeitfluss),

in Salzburg (OENM), at the Ultraschall Festival Berlin 2009, at the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory 2009 and 2010 by Studio for New Music Ensemble, at Forum Akazie 3 in Berlin in 2011, at Soundings 2012 in London, at the Östergötlands Musikdagar 2012 in Linköping (Sweden), in Tokyo (Toru Takemitsu Composition Award 2015, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra; Ryoko Aoki 2020, Ryuta Iwase 2022), in Switzerland (Zurich, Basel, Winterthur, Lucerne, Zofingen, Ilanz; Mondrian Ensemble 2015 and 2019; Karolina Öhman 2021 and in Baden, Ivana Pristašová 2017), at the festival Close Encounters (Tbilisi 2018, Mondrian Ensemble; Tbilisi 2021, Mondrian Ensemble), in New York (ensemble mise-en 2017, Yumi Suehiro 2018), at the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts (ensemble risonanze erranti 2022), at Le Senghor in Brussels (Ensemble STYX 2022), at the DLW-Festival Cologne (Gunde Jäch-Micko 2023), at the Austrian Cultural Forums in New York, Rome, Budapest, Ljubljana and Teheran, as well as in Montréal, Toronto, Ghent, Nijmegen, Cambridge, Olomouc, Prague, Bratislava, Helsinki, Novi Sad and in Argentina. At the opening concert of Wien Modern 2021 his trumpet concerto **Utopia I: Seltsame Schleifen** was premiered by the ORF Radio-Symphonieorchester Wien (conductor: Marin Alsop; trumpet: Selina Ott). In February 2010, he performed his violin concerto **...und ein einziger Ton weinte in einem Frühling...** with the Academy Symphony Orchestra Hong Kong. He was one of the featured composers at Wien Modern 2010. In June 2011, a portrait concert of his music took place at the Austrian National Library. In the season 2011/2012 he was composer in residence of the Wiener Concert-Verein. His music theatre piece for children **Das Märchen vom alten Mann** was premiered at Wien Modern 2013. His music has been broadcasted by Ö1, Radio Orange, radio klassik Stephansdom (AT), Kulturradio RBB, WDR3, SWR2, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, FRS (D), SRF (CH), RTP (PT), RTVE (ES), Radio France (FR), Klara (BE), Concertzender (NL), PR2 (PL), RTS (SI), HR3 (HR), RAI Bozen (IT), KUNM, Hollow Earth Radio (US) and NHK (JP).

Violin

As a violinist, Thomas Wally dedicates himself to the performance of contemporary music. He has played with Klangforum Wien (at the Opéra Garnier in Paris, Theater an der Wien, Wiener Jugendstiltheater, Teatro Real Madrid, Prinzregententheater Munich), with phace | contemporary music (Odeon Vienna, Konzerthaus Vienna, Museumsquartier Halle G, Dschungel Wien, in Graz, performances of „Todo el cielo sobre la tierra: El síndrome de Wendy“ in Madrid, Berlin, Strasbourg, Montréal and Tokyo), with Mondrian Ensemble (Basel, Zurich, Zofingen, Innsbruck and Frankfurt), with OENM (Klangspuren Schwaz, Milano, Künstlerhaus Salzburg and Mozarteum Salzburg), with Ensemble Reconsil (Arnold Schönberg Center Vienna, Schömerhaus Klosterneuburg, Baku 2011), with Ensemble Collage (Gläserner Saal, Wiener Musikverein) and with Ensemble Kontrapunkte (Brahms-Saal). In March 2011, he performed „Hay que caminar“ sognando for two violins by Luigi Nono with Ivana Pristašová at the Konzerthaus Vienna and at the March Music Days, Ruse (Bulgaria). Thomas Wally is co-founder of ensemble LUX. As a violinist of ensemble LUX, he has played concerts at the Aspekte Festival Salzburg 2005, at the Théâtre Dunois (Paris), at the Konzerthaus Vienna (Berio-Saal), at the Musikverein Vienna (Metallener Saal, Steiner Saal), at the Arnold Schönberg Center, at Wien Modern (2008, 2010 and 2013), at the Bregenzer Festspiele (2008, 2010, 2012), at the Forum Zeitgenössische Musik Leipzig 2011 and at the Cracow Music Academy. In 2012 ensemble LUX was Ensemble in Residence at the Alte Schmiede, Vienna. In 2014/2015 ensemble LUX performed in the production Johnny Breitwieser at the Schauspielhaus Vienna. In 2016 ensemble LUX played concerts in Poznan, Olomouc, New York, Montréal, Toronto and Saint-Émilien. Concerts in Graz (ImCubus, 2018, 2022) and Prague (2018, 2021) followed. In 2022, ensemble LUX performed a concert cycle at the Viennese synagogue Or Chadasch. In January 2023, ensemble LUX played a concert at the Stadthalle Aalen (Baden-Württemberg). In autumn 2023, ensemble LUX will perform a concert in Berlin („Unerhörte Musik“). In 2007/2008, Thomas Wally was concertmaster of the Webern Symphonie Orchester (Orchestra of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna). Since 2002 he has been a frequent substitute with the Vienna Philharmonic and in the Vienna State Opera.

From 2003 to 2008, Thomas Wally wrote program notes for the Bregenzer Festspiele. In a new radio series called „Neue Musik auf der Couch“ (Ö1, Zeit-Ton) Thomas Wally analyses string quartets written within the last hundred years.

University

In 2012, Thomas Wally began to teach the course „Historical Compositional Techniques“ („Historische Satztechniken“) for composers and conductors at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. Since October 2020, Thomas Wally works as a senior lecturer of music theory courses at the Fritz Kreisler Department of String Instruments, Harp and Guitar.