



## Basel Composition Competition education programme

**They become visible at the latest at the competition concerts: all those students from the high schools of the region who have been up close and personal with “their” composers for a week as part of the Basel Composition Competition, accompanying them during their performance in Basel.**

Since its first iteration, the Basel Composition Competition has been performing extensive education work relating to New Music. This work is organised as a “sponsorship project”: each nominated composer is allocated to a school class, which grapples with the work in the run-up to the festival and does so intensively during the rehearsal and concert phase.

This form of education work achieves the students’ direct identification with their composer, allowing low-threshold access to the latest New Music at a very personal level. There is also an opportunity for the accompanying teacher to put together during festival week an individual programme tailored to the current level of knowledge of the class, and to its needs and workload.

Thanks to the generous support of foundations and sponsors the students attend all the BCC concerts for free – but the innovative format of the BCC education programme provides not only opportunities for attending concerts, but also for central conversations with musicians, attending orchestral rehearsals, interviews with the composers and exchanges with other participating classes. For once the students are not just invited to concerts, they also invite “their” composer to their school, where the music creators answer the young people’s critical, humorous and sometimes quite challenging questions.

At the BCC concerts one ultimately encounters optimally prepared and informed young people in the audience, who are among the most attentive listeners, sharing “their” composers’ excitement and joyfully congratulating them on success in the competition.

The participating classes process their impressions of festival week and all their encounters in the course of the Basel Composition Competition in the form of an Instagram story (e.g.

**HEAD JUROR MICHAEL JARRELL**



<https://www.instagram.com/alex.nante/>), in the framework of concert reports, large-format posters, a documentary film, illustrations, visualisations or a podcast.

A festival like the Basel Composition Competition offers high school students the unique opportunity of a week-long deep-dive together with their teachers into the field of “New Music” and thereby to experience for once in their full impressiveness the novel, unfamiliar and exciting sounds of contemporary music, to question their own listening habits and to refine their personal reflections about music.

### **The key points of the sponsorship project in brief:**

#### *In the run-up to the Basel Composition Competition:*

- Contact between teacher/class and composer
- First acquaintance with the work  
(all classes receive free study scores)

#### *During festival week (rehearsal phase):*

- Composer visits class
- Class attends rehearsals
- Conversations with orchestral musicians possible by arrangement

#### *Concerts during festival week:*

- Each class attends the festival concert of “their” composer
- The class takes part – in consultation with their teacher – in the finale and the award ceremony.

#### *After the Basel Composition Competition:*

- The students process their impressions in the form of a concert report, a poster, a (video) documentary, etc.