

What actually constitutes a successful concert program? Is it famous names like Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms? Or is it good, gripping, thrilling music of a high standard? Famous names are rarely found on the programs of the Hugo Kauder Trio; however, great music definitely is. The three musicians are convinced: They do exist, the sumptuous jewels of sound at eye level with the creations of the great masters, written by Kahn, Klughardt or precisely, Kauder. The name of the composer Hugo Kauder (1888-1972) is practically unknown today, even to experts, and is an icon for forgotten composers whose posthumous fame was perhaps only denied on account of unfavorable historical conditions.

Convincing its public of the merits of such musical rarities is an easy task for the Hugo Kauder Trio. In addition to the qualities of the music itself, the unexpected spectrum of timbres in the rare combination of oboe, viola and piano plays a vital role, as well as the immaculate ensemble playing of the three musicians, also active as soloists, which has frequently been critically acclaimed.

Ivan Danko (Oboe), Róbert Lakatos (Viola) und Ladislav Fanzowitz (Klavier) have been friends since their student days at the conservatory of Slovakia's capital, Bratislava, and have repeatedly made music together since then. Finally, in 2008, Ivan Danko, in the meantime a solo oboist at the Stuttgart State Opera, called his friends together and with them founded a permanent trio. Appearances soon followed, primarily in Germany and Slovakia. The ensemble's first CD (Kauder, Klughardt, Kahn) was released in 2010. Meanwhile, the trio is also internationally active and made its debut in the USA with concerts in New York and Washington in October of 2014.

In their search for suitable repertoire, the three musicians don't shy away from the sometimes tedious research in libraries and archives, because a healthy portion of idealism and the spirit of discovery are certainly required when one has set a goal to unearth hidden treasures. The main emphasis of the Hugo Kauder Trio lies on those works of the 19th and 20th centuries which in their opinion are too rarely played. The artistic quality of the works is the sole guiding principle of the ensemble: Whatever does not meet their requirements will not be played. And thus the Hugo Kauder Trio guarantees musical enjoyment at the highest level, even without Beethoven, Mozart or Brahms, in which nothing is left to be desired.

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While still a student, the 21-year old **Ivan Danko** received an engagement as solo oboist at one of Germany's most prestigious opera houses, the Stuttgart State Opera. Danko was not misled by this early acquired position – he completed his studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich and, alongside numerous concert engagements as solo oboist in Germany's leading orchestras, also carried out his own projects. His „exquisitely recorded portrait CD“ (Stuttgarter Zeitung) was released in 2008 and an additional album followed in 2010 with the foundation of the Hugo Kauder Trio ensemble. As a soloist, „Danko is one of the finest on his instrument“ (Heilbronner Stimme). He recorded the next album with his Hugo Kauder Trio in 2015. Always in search of the new, but at the same time keeping with tradition, characterises Danko's musical personality.

**Róbert Lakatos** was a member of the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra for six years. Increasing activities in the field of chamber music and Hungarian folklore, which had been gaining importance in Lakatos' musical career, made his decision to eventually leave the orchestra an easier one. He has maintained contact only to the Solistes Européens Luxembourg orchestra from 2004 up to the present time. In his own projects, Lakatos brings the best Hungarian musicians of classical music, folk music and the jazz scene together. He has broadened his already wide range of activities by composing music for film and theatre performances since 2012.

The debut CD of **Ladislav Fanzowitz**, released in 2006, with the B minor Sonata of Franz Liszt and virtuosic transcriptions of L. Godowsky, V. Horowitz and G. Cziffra, which pose the highest technical challenge to pianists, already revealed Fanzowitz's unlimited playing potential and unforeseen diversity of expression. Seventeen (!) further CDs of a very broad solo and chamber music repertoire followed. Studies at the Academy of Musical Arts in Prag, at the Vienna University of Music and Dramatic Arts, as well as at the Academy of Performing Arts Bratislava formed his musical personality. Fanzowitz is a prizewinner and finalist of several international competitions. An increasing need to express himself musically, also outside of „classical music“, has led him to the foundation of the „Fats Jazz Band“. Besides that of the piano, he also passionately takes the part of alto saxophone in his band.