

Thursday 31 August 21.00 at the Erin Arts Centre

Recital: Günter Klaus with the Würzburg Double Bass Ensemble
Günter Klaus *double bass* and Conny Kläger *piano* with the Würzburg Double Bass Ensemble, Martin Aulbach, Heinrich Braun, Michinori Bunya, Albert Büttner, Günter Fischer, Sophia Koch, Jürgen Normann, Timm-Johannes Trappe and Hans Peter Wirth *double basses* W. Germany.

*Claus Kühnl: *Divertimento* for four double basses

Julien-François Zbinden: *Homage à J S Bach* Op44

Franz Anton Hoffmeister: *Concerto in D major*

Bernard Alt: *Suite* for four double basses

**Bertold Hummel: *Sinfonia Piccola* 1978 for eight double basses

Günter Klaus was born in 1940 in Gelsenkirchen, the son of a musical family. His early musical education was with his father who was a cellist. Later he studied with Paul Wenkel in Weimar and with Reinhold Kämpfer in Frankfurt/Main. Since 1966 he has been principal of the Radiosinfonieorchester Frankfurt/Main. He was a prizewinner at the 1969 Geneva International Competition and in 1974 gave the première of the double bass concerto by Jean Françaix, which appears in the syllabus of this year's Isle of Man Competition. He is currently teaching at the Staatlichen Hochschule für Musik in Würzburg.



Peter Zollina

Programme



Timm-Johannes Trappe is the oldest member of the Würzburg Double Bass Ensemble and studied with Rainer Zepperitz in Berlin. He is a founder member of the ensemble Neue Musik Frankfurt and is currently involved with producing chamber music for Hessischen Rundfunk. The remainder of the ensemble are all studying with Günter Klaus.

Würzburg Double Bass Octet (L to R) Michinori Bunya/Heinrich Braun/Günter Fischer/Albert Büttner/Hans-Peter Wirth/Peter Hummel/Sophia Koch and Jürgen Normann



Klaus Kühnl was born in 1957 in Arnstein/Unterfranken and is studying composition with Bertold Hummel. *Divertimento* was written in January this year at the request of Günter Klaus and was first performed in Würzburg in June. The first movement *Orgelpunkt* is based, as the title suggests, on a pedal A which is sustained throughout the movement by one or other of the four players. It interrupts the underlying harmonic structure of the movement. The second movement *Chorale* is derived from a famous melody and is interwoven in counterpoint with another which does not belong to the general structure. Towards the end, the theme of *Orgelpunkt* reappears. The finale displays more virtuoso techniques.

A note about Zbinden appears on page 27. *Homage à Bach* was the set work for the 1969 Geneva Competition.

A note about Hoffmeister appears on page 36. The Concerto in D major is the second of three and was written some time after 1789. An early manuscript copy of the work exists in Vienna. There are three movements.

Bernhard Alt was born in 1903 and his Suite for four double basses was the first ever to be published (1933). Another work by Alt, Adagio and Scherzo was published by Hoffmeister in 1934. The quartet has four movements.

Bertold Hummel was born in 1925 in Baden. After the war he studied composition and the cello in Freiburg im Briesgau. In 1974 he was appointed professor at Würzburg. *Sinfonia Piccola* is in four movements and takes the form of a little symphony for eight basses. The bass 'orchestra' is treated like a symphony orchestra and the composer explores the various tonal possibilities of the available instruments in the same way as he might explore the colours available in a full symphony orchestra.

This programme is being promoted by the artists themselves and the Secretariat is most grateful to those concerned. GK

Thursday 31 August 22.30 in the Erin Arts Centre

Late night films: *The Ghost and Romance with a double bass*

The Ghost is a straight performance by Daniel Barenboim, Jacqueline du Pré and Pinchas Zukerman in St John's, Smith Square, London, of Beethoven's Piano Trio Op70 No 1 known as *The Ghost*.

Romance with a double bass is a hilarious short film of the Chekov story which features John Cleese as a young Russian musician who is hopelessly in love with a princess. There is some fine playing by Gerald Drucker on the sound track and the film is not to be missed.