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Lara

A film by Jan-Ole Gerster

Based on a screenplay by Blaž Kutin

With

CORINNA HARFOUCH TOM SCHILLING

ANDRÉ JUNG VOLKMAR KLEINERT RAINER BOCK

CAST

LaraCorinna HarfouchViktorTom SchillingMr. CzernyAndré JungReinhoferVolkmar KleinertViktor's fatherRainer Bock

and in order of appearance:

Officer Fauser Johann von Bülow
Officer Walter Alexander Khuon
Sascha Czerny Edin Hasanovic
Woman at the box office Annika Meier

MarionHildegard SchroedterKatharinaKathleen MorgeneyerBoutique saleswomanFriederike Kempter

Johanna Mala Emde Leon Wenzel Piano student Lara's mother Gudrun Ritter Woman in ladies' room Tina Pfurr Rebecca Birge Schade Clara Maria Dragus Tobi Mark Filatov Barbara Barbara Philipp

Jürgen Steffen C. Jürgens

and many more

CREW

Director Jan-Ole Gerster
Screenplay Blaž Kutin
Producers Marcos Kantis
Martin Lehwald

Martin Lehwald Michal Pokorny

Co-Producers Studiocanal - Kalle Friz, Isabel Hund

Production Department Manager Charles E. Breitkreuz Production Manager Dorissa Berninger Frank Griebe Cinematography Film Editor Isabel Meier Sound Magnus Pflüger Supervising Sound Editor Fabian Schmidt Mixing engineer **Hubertus Rath** Music composition Arash Safaian **Pianist** Alice Sara Ott **KD** Gruber Production Design Anette Guther Costume design Make-up artist Corinna Harfouch Markus Scharping Make-up artist Sonia Salazar-Delgado

Casting Nina Haun

TECHNICAL DATA

Running time: 98 minutes Format: 2.39 2K

Image: OCD 2.8K 4444 ProRes anamorphic 2:1

Sound: Digital 5.1 Mix

Press contact

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BRIEF SYNOPSIS:

Lara's day seems to start like any other — with a cup of tea and a cigarette. Still, today is a very special day for two reasons: Not only is it her 60th birthday, but for the first time, her son Victor is also giving a grand solo performance of piano music he composed himself. However, unlike Viktor's father Paul and his new girlfriend, Lara is not invited. Nevertheless, Lara has her own plans for the day. She buys the last tickets for the show and distributes them according to her very idiosyncratic ways. In any case, the events of the day unfold in a completely unexpected manner.

LARA, Gerster's second fiction feature after his successful debut *A Coffee in Berlin* which won six German Film Awards, brings together an impressive cast and film crew, starring Corinna Harfouch (*Der Fall Bruckner*, *Home for the Weekend, Downfall*) and Tom Schilling (*Never Look Away, Goldfische, Generation War, A Coffee in Berlin*) accompanied by Rainer Bock, Volkmar Kleinert, André Jung, and Mala Emde. Award-winning cinematographer Frank Griebe (*25 km/h, Babylon Berlin, Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*) is responsible for the camera work. The film was again produced by Marcos Kantis for Schiwago Film in co-production with Studiocanal Film.

LARA is about lost dreams, the love of music, and a special mother-son relationship. The screenplay, which won the MEDIA New Talent Award of the European Union, is the work of the Slovenian author, photo artist, and filmmaker Blaž Kutin in collaboration with TorinoFilmLab. The music for the film was composed by award-winning musician Arash Safaian (ECHO KLASSIK) and recorded by German-Japanese star pianist Alice Sara Ott.

LARA is supported by the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung, FFA, and DFFF in co-production with Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (rbb, Editor: Cooky Ziesche), the Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR, Editor: Claudia Simionescu), and ARTE (Editors: Andreas Schreitmüller and Manuel Tanner). LARA is part of the LEUCHTSTOFF film initiative by rbb and the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg. Beta Cinema is responsible for worldwide distribution.

STARRING

Corinna Harfouch (Lara)

Corinna Harfouch is one of Germany's most respected actresses. Whether on the movie screen, television, or the theater stage, for over 30 years she has captivated audiences with her versatility, depth, and passion. She has been honored multiple times for her superlative performances, having won the Adolf Grimme Award, German Film Award, German Film Award, and Berlinale Camera.

Hailing from Suhl, Germany, Harfouch studied at the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Arts in Berlin from 1978 to 1981 before attending the master class with Vera Oelschlegel at Berlin's Theater im Palast. In the early 1990s she worked on all of Berlin's stages and became one of the leading actresses of Volksbühne director Frank Castorf. For her role as General Harras in Carl Zuckmayer's play *The Devil's General* in 1997, she received the coveted Gertrud Eysoldt Ring theater award for outstanding acting achievements and was voted Actress of the Year by the German theater critics.

In addition to her work in theater, Harfouch's television and cinema career began in the 1980s, initially with supporting roles. One of her very first movies, Roland Gräf's *Das Haus am Fluss* (1996), made her known to a wide audience, and in 1987 she offered a convincing performance as Detective Meffert in Hark Bohm's *Der Kleine Staatsanwalt*. The following year in Siegfried Kühn's literary adaptation *Die Schauspielerin*, she portrayed a woman who disguises herself as a Jew during the Nazi period in order to not lose her lover. Her performance won several prizes, including the Best Actor Award at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival. And as the wife of the revolutionary Georg Forster in Michael Gwisdek's directorial debut *Treffen in Travers*, she won the Actress Award in 1990 at the GDR's last National Festival for Feature Films, as well as a European Film Award nomination.

Harfouch has since appeared in more than 80 film and cinema productions and is considered one of the most versatile actresses in the German film scene. In the nineties her roles included a GDR fugitive in Margarethe von Trotta's *Das Versprechen* (1995) and a prison doctor in Matthias Glasner's gangster film *Sexy Sadie* (1996). For her role in Sherry Hormann's romantic comedy *Father's Day* (1996), she received the Bavarian Film Award in 1997. The same year she was honored with a Bavarian TV Award for her performances in Hermine Huntgeburth's TV gangster comedy *Gefährliche Freundin* and Mark Schlichter's thriller *Der Ausbruch*. For *Gefährliche Freundin* she also received the coveted Adolf Grimme Award.

In 2001 director Hark Bohm filmed the story of one of the most spectacular murder cases of the post-war era in the highly-acclaimed two-part TV series Vera Brühne. For her portrayal of the title character Harfouch received the German Television Award. She subsequently played the inspector in the crime series *Blond: Eva Blond!* (2002–2006) and was awarded the Golden Camera. She gave a convincing performance as the witch Rabia in Hermine Huntgeburth's successful children's film *Bibi Blocksberg* (2002), for which Harfouch won the 2003 German Film Award for Best Supporting Actress. Her portrayal of Magda Goebbels in Oliver Hirschbiegel's *Downfall* (2004) earned her critical praise as well as another German Film Award nomination. Most recently, the versatile actress was seen in Kerstin Polte's family comedy *Wer hat eigentlich die Liebe erfunden?* and in Jakob Lass's bestseller adaptation *Right Here Right Now*, both in 2018.

Alongside her film career, Harfouch regularly captivates theater audiences, having performed on all the major German-speaking stages. She has received many honors for her work. A special highlight was her appearance with Ulrich Matthes in Edward Albee's play *Who's afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Director: Jürgen Gosch) in 2004 at the Deutsches Theater Berlin – a production that became a stage classic.

Harfouch has performed frequently at the Deutsches Theater since 2008, including in *Die Möwe* (Director: Jürgen Gosch) and currently in the classical tragedy *Phaedra* (Director: Stephan Kimmig) and in the adaptation of Ingmar Bergman's *Persona* (Director: Anna Bergmann).

Tom Schilling (Viktor)

Tom Schilling was born in Berlin in 1982 and is one of the most sought-after German actors of his generation. He already has an impressive career behind him in theater, film, and television. Critics and fans alike are enthusiastic about his performances.

Schilling was seen most recently in Alireza Golafshan's tragicomedy *Die Goldfische* (2019) alongside Jella Haase and Birgit Minichmayr. He previously starred in Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's Oscar-nominated drama *Never Look Away* (2018) with Sebastian Koch and Paula Beer. His portrayal of the artist Kurt Barnert, inspired by the life of the painter Gerhard Richter, earned him considerable critical acclaim.

Schilling was already appearing on theater stages and in films as a boy. At the age of six, he played his first role in Jurij Kramer's short film *Stunde der Wahrheit* (1988) made for GDR television. He was discovered as a twelve-year-old by director Thomas Heise for the play *Im Schlagschatten des Mondes* (1995) and performed at the renowned Berliner Ensemble. Schilling appeared there for four years before making his television debut in the series *Hallo*, *Onkel Doc!* in 1996.

In Friedemann Fromm's action drama *Paradise Mall*, Schilling was seen in his first movie role alongside Heiner Lauterbach and Franka Potente. The then-eighteen-year-old became famous overnight starring with Robert Stadlober in Hans-Christian Schmid's award-winning literary adaptation *Crazy* (2000). Schilling received the Bavarian Film Award for Best Young Actor for his performance. Among other prizes, *Crazy* won the German Film Award in Silver for Best Feature Film and was one of the movie hits of the year 2000. The talented young actor later appeared in other successful German feature films before receiving a scholarship in 2006 for the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute and spending half a year in New York. He was subsequently seen in 2008 in Uli Edel's *The Baader Meinhof Complex*, and in 2009 offered a convincing performance as the young Hitler in Urs Odermatt's *Mein Kampf* (2009), freely adapted from George Taboris's play of the same name.

Schilling celebrated one of his most notable successes playing the leading role, the aimless Berlin college dropout Niko, in the award-winning tragicomedy *A Coffee in Berlin* (2012). Jan-Ole Gerster's directorial debut was not only the surprise hit of the year at box offices, but also scored at the 2013 German Film Awards with six Lolas, including for Best Feature Film. Schilling received the coveted trophy for Best Actor, his second Bavarian Film Award, and a nomination for the German Film Critics Award. He was also nominated for the European Film Award for Best Actor in 2014. *A Coffee in Berlin* won as Best Debut Film.

In 2014 Schilling landed another hit alongside Elyas M'Barek, Wotan Wilke Möhring, and Hannah Herzsprung in Baran bo Odar's award-winning *Who Am I*. In addition to his feature film successes, Schilling is also a highly sought-after television actor. In 2013 he was seen as the title character in Nuran Calis's modern literary adaptation Woyzeck and as one of the leading actors in Philipp Kadelbach's award-winning TV miniseries *Generation War*.

Schilling also collaborated with Philipp Kadelbach in the TV thriller *Auf kurze Distanz* in 2016. The same year he starred in Züli Aladag's *Die Opfer – Vergesst mich nicht –* one of the episodes of the sensational trilogy *Mitten in Deutschland: NSU*. In 2017 he played the lead role in Oliver Hirschbiegel's six-part TV series *The Same Sky*, honored with the German Television Award for Best Miniseries. In Heinrich Breloer's biopic *Brecht*,

which celebrated its world premiere at the 69th Berlinale in the Berlinale Special section, he offered a convincing performance as the young Bertolt Brecht.

Since 2014 Schilling has also been frequently cast in international films, including Lulu Wang's *Posthumous* (2014), Saul Dibb's *Suite Française* (2014) with Michelle Williams and Matthias Schoenarts, and Simon Curtis's *The Woman in Gold* (2015) with Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds, Katie Holmes, and Daniel Bruehl.

His second passion is music. He toured for the first time with his band Tom Schilling & The Jazz Kids in May 2017.

André Jung (Mr. Czerny)

Hailing from Luxembourg, actor André Jung (born 1953) can be seen both in the theater and regularly in film and television roles. In the 1970s he attended the State University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart and was subsequently engaged at a number of theaters, including the Theater Basel, Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg, Schauspielhaus Zurich, and Munich Kammerspiele. In 1981 and 2002, Jung was voted Actor of the Year by *Theater heute* magazine. In 2000 he received the Rita Tanck Glaser Acting Award of the Hamburg Cultural Foundation for outstanding acting achievements.

Since 1986 Jung has appeared in numerous film and television productions. He will be appearing in Bettina Oberli's forthcoming Swiss film *Wanda*, *mein Wunder* with Birgit Minichmayr.

In addition, he is involved in several radio play projects, for one of which he regularly voices Chief Inspector Michel Paquet on the popular ARD radio series *Radio-Tatort*.

Volkmar Kleinert (Reinhofer)

Volkmar Kleinert is a renowned German actor who has been involved in countless plays and over 100 film and television productions for more than 50 years.

The charismatic actor was born in Dresden in 1938 and completed his acting studies at the Theaterhochschule in Leipzig. After graduating, he met director Wolfgang Heinz, who brought him in the early 1960s to the Deutsches Theater Berlin, where Kleinert was a member of the permanent ensemble until 2006.

His film career began at the DEFA with literary adaptations such as *Die Abenteuer des Werner Holt* (1965). And Kleinert is now also inseparable from the German television landscape. He continues to play memorable roles in feature films, in many popular detective shows such as *Tatort* and *Polizeiruf 110*, in series such as *Krupp: A Family Between War and Peace*, and in *Der Clown*.

In film, he received wide attention as Albert Jerska in Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's Oscar-winning Stasi drama *The Lives of Others* (2006).

Rainer Bock (Viktor's father)

The Kiel-born actor Rainer Bock is known today as one of the finest in his field – in the theater, on television, and on the movie screen.

In 1982, after completing his acting studies, he first received a number of theater engagements and began appearing in television roles starting in 1997. Bock is a brilliant actor who is often seen in charismatic supporting roles. In 2008 he featured in Caroline Link's film *A Year Ago in Winter* before becoming known to wider audiences the following year with his performance as a German general in Quentin Tarantino's star-studded *Inglourious Basterds*, and notably as the sadistic teacher in Michael Haneke's award-winning drama *The White Ribbon*. The latter earned him a nomination for the German Film Award. Bock has since been in great demand both in Germany and internationally and has worked with directors such as Jo Baier, Christian Petzold, Til Schweiger, Brian de Palma, Anton Corbijn, Michael Haneke, and Steven Spielberg.

Recently he was seen alongside Sebastian Koch, Tom Schilling, and Paula Beer in Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck's Oscar-nominated artist drama *Never Look Away* (2018). At the same time he offered convincing performances in the TV remake of *Das Boot* and as Werner Ziegler in the current season of the Netflix hit series *Better Call Saul*. His portrayal of a furniture mover in the gentrification drama *The Mover* earned Bock a nomination for the 2019 German Film Award as Best Actor.

Bock will continue to play strong roles in the future. He recently finished shooting for Visar Morina's film *Exil*, which won the German Screenplay Award in 2018.

Behind the camera

Jan-Ole Gerster (Director)

Jan-Ole Gerster, born in 1978, moved to Berlin in 2000 for an internship with the film production company X-Filme Creative Pool (*Run Lola Run*, *The White Ribbon*, *Babylon Berlin*). He subsequently became personal assistant to Wolfgang Becker during the production of *Good Bye*, *Lenin!*. In 2004 he began his studies at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (dffb), where he majored in screenwriting and directing while filming music videos on the side (including for *Get Well Soon*, *Nada Surf*).

His debut film *A Coffee in Berlin* celebrated its world premiere at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in July 2012 and became a surprise hit at the box office the following autumn.

A Coffee in Berlin won numerous national and international awards, including the Bavarian Film Award (Best Screenplay), the German Film Award in six categories (including Best Direction, Best Screenplay, Best Feature Film), and the European Film Award for Best Debut Film. In 2013 Gerster was a fellow of the Villa Aurora (Los Angeles) and in 2014 of the Villa Massimo (Rome). His second feature film *Lara* will be celebrating its world premiere in summer 2019 and will be released in German cinemas on November 7, 2019.

Marcos Kantis (Producer)

Born in Rheinhausen, Germany, producer and production manager Marcos Kantis has, since 2007, been the third joint partner of the Berlin-based production company Schiwago Films, which was founded in 2000 by executive producers Martin Lehwald and Michal Pokorny. The company initially concentrated on television formats and has also been developing and producing increasingly successful films in recent years. In particular, their focus is on the promotion of young directors and the search for interesting and demanding subjects.

In 1995 Kantis graduated with a degree in economics from the University of Duisburg. During his studies, he worked as a freelancer in the production funding department of the Film and Media Foundation NRW. After graduating he worked for three years as recording and production manager for the Cologne production company action concept, where he was involved in television series including *Der Clown* and *Alarm für Cobra 11 – Die Autobahnpolizei*.

In 2001 he moved to Berlin and became line producer at X Filme Creative Pool. Here he was involved in many successful films, including Wolfgang Becker's *Good Bye, Lenin!* (2003), Achim von Borries's *Love in Thoughts* (2004), Oskar Roehler's *Agnes and His Brothers* (2004), Dani Levy's *Go for Zucker* (2004), Dominik Graf's *The Red Cockatoo* (2006), Sebastian Schipper's *A Friend of Mine* (2006), Dani Levy's *My Führer* (2007), and Nicolette Krebitz's *The Heart is a Dark Forest* (2007).

As a producer at Schiwago Film, Kantis has been responsible for both successful television productions and feature films since 2007, the latter including Jan Henrik Stahlberg and Marcus Mittermeier's comedy *Short Cut to Hollywood* (2009), Urs Odermatt's *Mein Kampf* (2009), Damir Lukacevic's science fiction drama *Transfer* (2010), and Elke Hauck's *Der Preis* (2011).

With Jan-Ole Gerster's melancholy comedy *A Coffee in Berlin*, Kantis celebrated an enormous box-office success in 2012. For the film he and his colleague Alexander Wadouh received the Golden Lola for Best Feature Film at the German Film Awards in 2013 as well as the European Film Award for Best Debut Film, among other honors.

It was followed by Justus von Dohnányi's black comedy *Desaster* (2015) and Mijke de Jong's Dutch drama *Layla M.* (2016), for which Kantis served as co-producer. The film was premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. In 2018 Wolfgang Fischer's German-Austrian co-production *Styx* (2018) starring Susanne Wolff celebrated its world premiere at the 68th Berlinale (Panorama Special) and has since received numerous awards, among them four German Film Awards including Best Feature Film in Silver.

Kantis' more recent television productions include Rick Ostermann's sensational television drama *Krieg* (2017) starring Ulrich Matthes, Barbara Auer, and Jördis Triebel. The literary adaptation celebrated its premiere at the 2017 Venice International Film Festival, where the director was nominated for the prestigious Venice Horizons Award.

Florian Dietrich's TV comedy Manche lernen's nie is currently in post-production.

Blaž Kutin (Screenplay)

Born in 1970 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, author, photo artist, and filmmaker Blaž Kutin has been living in Berlin since 2009. He studied ethnology and cultural sociology at the University of Ljubljana.

Kutin works as a writer and has made short films and a feature film. His passion for abstract photography has already resulted in several exhibitions of his works in Berlin and London.

In 2008 he directed, wrote the screenplay for, and produced *We've Never Been to Venice*. The film celebrated its world premiere at the Sarajevo Film Festival and was subsequently screened at many international film festivals. At the 2009 Cape Winelands Film Festival in South Africa, he received the special prize of the jury. Kutin's short film *Warm for This Time of Year* celebrated its world premiere in 2011 in the competition of the Sarajevo Film Festival; it was selected in 2013 by the Les Arcs International Film Festival for a retrospective of the best contemporary short films from the former Yugoslavia. Recently his new short film *The Final Day of Rudolf Nietsche* (2018) was premiered at the Slovenian Film Festival and won the award for Best Short Film.

For the screenplay of LARA, the versatile author won the MEDIA New Talent Award of the European Union at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival as well as the CineLink Award of the Sarajevo Film Festival. Kutin developed the screenplay in collaboration with TorinoFilmLab, in which he participated in 2005.

Frank Griebe (Cinematography)

For more than twenty years, cinematographer Frank Griebe, born in Hamburg in 1964, has been enriching the television and cinema landscape with his unmistakable images, for which he has won numerous awards, including the Adolf Grimme Award, European Film Award, German Film Award, and German Camera Award. Griebe sets himself apart from his colleagues with his great technical sophistication, passion for the experimental, and exceptional stylistic versatility. After training as a camera assistant, he began his career as a cinematographer in the early 1990s – which also marked the beginning of his long-standing collaboration with director Tom Tykwer.

For his first film project, Tom Tykwer's *Die tödliche Maria* (1993), Griebe was awarded the Kodak Prize and the German Camera Award. In 1998 he received the German Film Award for his work on Tom Tykwer's multi-award-winning thriller *Winter Sleepers* (1997) and Peter Lichtefeld's romance *Train Birds* (1998). The experimental video clip aesthetic – ultra-modern for the time – of Tom Tykwer's hit movie *Run Lola Run* (1998) was spectacular and caused an international sensation. The film took eight Lolas at the 1999 German Film Awards, including for Best Feature Film, Best Direction, and Best Cinematography. His comparatively

naturalistic camera work for Sebastian Schipper's tragicomedy *Gigantic* (1999) was also successful. These were followed by such films as Tom Tykwer's *The Princess and the Warrior* (2000) and Leander Haussmann's cult comedy *Berlin Blues* (2003).

Because of Griebe's enormous stylistic range, with which he always succeeds in visually translating the theme of a film, he was awarded the Marburg Camera Award in 2002 for his oeuvre. The same year he received the German Film Critics Award for his cinematography in Tom Tykwer's internationally successful production *Heaven* starring Cate Blanchett.

For Franka Potente's directorial debut *Digging for Belladonna* (2006), which drew wide acclaim, Griebe provided the look of an early slapstick silent film, earning him and the director the Adolf Grimme Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in terms of conception, idea, and camera work. Also in 2006, he was responsible for the equally opulent and realistic image composition of Tom Tykwer's bestseller adaptation *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer*. For this Griebe received the European Film Award as well as another German Film Award in 2007.

In 2012 Griebe created stunning images in the star-studded and award-winning drama *Cloud Atlas* by Tom Tykwer and the Wachowski siblings. The action adventure was nominated for the Golden Globe, among other awards. Together with American star cinematographer John Toll, Griebe received his fourth German Film Award in 2013.

In 2013, the visionary cinematographer received the German Camera Award as a tribute to his life's work. This was followed in 2018 by a German Television Award for his work on the masterpiece series *Babylon Berlin*.

Most recently, Griebe's camera work could be admired in Markus Goller's German comedy 25 km/h (2018). Other films shot by Griebe include Tom Tykwer's political thriller *The International* (2009), the episode "Feierlich reist" of the film project *Germany 09* (2009), and *A Hologram for the King* (2016). In addition to his cinematography for feature films, he has worked on documentaries such as Annekatrin Hendel's *Anderson – Anatomie des Verrats* (2014), Sönke Wortmann's *Deutschland. Ein Sommermärchen* (2006), and Romuald Karmakar's *If I Think of Germany at Night* (2017). And he was involved in the large-scale television project 24 *Hours Berlin* (2009).

Arash Safaian (Composer)

Arash Safaian was born in Tehran and grew up near Bayreuth, where he soon came in contact with the operas of Richard Wagner. In addition to his involvement with music, painting and sculpture were also defining interests of his childhood and adolescence. He initially studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Nuremberg before switching to composition at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich, where he studied with Jan-Müller Wieland and Pascal Dusapin. He has made a name for himself with numerous works for orchestra, ensembles, film, and music theater, which have been premiered in New York (*on the beach*) under the direction of Robert Wilson, in Berlin (*Der Schuss 2-6-1967*) at the Neuköllner Oper, and in Munich (*At Stake*) at the Opera Biennale. Safaian has been awarded the Composition Prize of the Reinl Foundation in Vienna, the Gerda and Günter Bialas Prize, and the EON Cultural Award Bavaria. He has been a fellow of the Villa Concordia Bamberg, the City of Munich, and the Cité internationale des arts Paris. His works are performed by renowned orchestras and ensembles and at international classical music festivals. In 2017 he received the ECHO KLASSIK Award for his concert cycle *ÜberBach*.