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# STAHLQUARTETT

The STAHLQUARTETT was established in 2001 with musicians from the ensemble ‚Steelharmonie‘ which was founded in 1999 by the musician and instrument maker, Jan Heinke. It brings together classical and jazz musicians. Their instruments, constructed out of steel by Jan Heinke, are known as Stahlcellos.

The Stahlcellos are designed using tuning and playing techniques which allow the interpretation of complex compositions and harmonies. These instruments are synaesthetic objects that create a visual and sound sculpture in the environment in which they are played.

Stahlcellos are a form of a string instrument and designed to be bowed. Two solid iron carriers connect a series of tuned steel rods of varying length with a resonating curved stainless steel body that lends the sound its own very special depth and texture .

The STAHLQUARTETT usually plays acoustically in chamber music performances. If required, the instruments can be amplified and the sounds electronically modified. In cooperation with other ensembles and soloists, stylistic and perceptual boundaries are consciously transcended, allowing the development of new forms of musical expression.

The ensemble’s repertoire consists of their own compositions and also a wide range of works from classical to contemporary. However, the unique sounds created by the steel instruments lifts these compositions out of their various origins in time and unites them in a common context shaped by the qualities of the instruments.

STAHLQUARTETT concerts are simultaneously events and apparently inconspicuous backgrounds, which permeate and influence the atmosphere of a venue in the way that architecture also does.

The music blends into the acoustic landscape of streets, parks and industrial buildings.

