

COLLECTION
FUNDACIÓN BBVA - NEOS

Aus Trachila

Thomas Hummel (*1962)

THOMAS HUMMEL:

Born in 1962 in Rhineland, Germany, THOMAS HUMMEL grew up in a home where natural sciences and classical music played important roles. He learned to play the violoncello and began to compose in early childhood. He decided first to follow in his father's footsteps and pursued a university degree in chemistry. While studying, he wrote new prize-winning compositions. After receiving his degree in 1986, he decided to study composition on the advice of a good friend. He began his studies in Cologne and a short time later moved to Freiburg to study with Mathias Spahlinger.

The combination of his scientific and musical education lead him into his second profession, music informatics. He worked for two years at the IRCAM in Paris, where he also completed a one-year course in computer music. Several of his new pieces with live electronics were premiered at the IRCAM. Since 1994, he has worked for the EXPERIMENTALSTUDIO des SWR in Freiburg where he has produced live-electronic pieces of numerous composers and premiered them in major European music festivals. Additionally, he developed the first live-electronic concepts and spatialization software. He has concentrated more recently on information systems on orchestration. He published "The Virtual Orchestra" in 2002, which has since been used internationally. Since 2006, he has been developing a subsequent system, "conTimbre", in coordination with many interpreters of contemporary music.

Thomas Hummel frequently teaches computer music and electronic music at the Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design (Hochschule für Gestaltung Karlsruhe) and at the Institute of Musicology (Musikwissenschaftliches Institut) at the University of Freiburg. His works have been performed by, among others, the RSO Stuttgart, the Kairos Quartett, the Holst-Sinfonietta and the Ensemble SurPlus.