

Leonie Klein

percussionist | concert designer | music journalist

"Breathtakingly confident", "technical perfection", "captivating performance" – the critics gush when it comes to percussionist Leonie Klein, born in 1993. She has dedicated herself to contemporary music and is active both as a soloist and in the ensemble, e.g. in the Duo HAUSER.KLEIN.PERKUSSION with the percussionist Fritz Hauser.

Concerts take Leonie Klein to venues such as the Konzerthaus Berlin, the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, the Bayer Erholungshaus Leverkusen, the Tollhaus Karlsruhe, the Theater 509 Cologne, the Landestheater Eisenach, the Kulturhaus Gotha, the Württembergische Landesbühne Esslingen, the Gare du Nord Basel, Speyer Cathedral and the Fruchthalle Kaiserslautern, as well as to numerous festivals, including the "Forum neuer Musik" of Deutschlandfunk Cologne, "ZeitGenuss" Karlsruhe, "New Counterpoints" Düsseldorf, KNM Contemporaries Berlin, SWRlive! Mainz, the ARD Radio Play Days, the International Summer Courses for New Music in Darmstadt, the Mozart Festival in Würzburg, the Beethoven Festival in Bonn, the Mosel Music Festival and the ECLAT Festival Neue Musik Stuttgart, where she performed as a soloist with the SWR Vocal Ensemble.

Her musical development was significantly influenced by her collaboration with Helmut Lachenmann, Vinko Globokar, Nicolaus A. Huber, Dieter Schnebel and Péter Eötvös, whose percussion concert "Speaking Drums" she performed under his conducting. She regularly collaborates with renowned as well as young, up-and-coming composers (e.g. Sara Glojnarić, Dai Fujikura). She also worked on arrangements of Péter Eötvös' "Speaking Drums" and Ursula Mamlok's "Variations and Interludes" for percussion solo, which are published by Schott-Verlag and C. F. Peters Corporation (New York).

Leonie Klein has been working as a concert designer since 2023. She has already developed her own concert formats for the Mozartfest Würzburg (MozartExotikum - an interactive radio play concert) and the Kammertheater Karlsruhe (1000 beats per minute - a percussion performance).

In addition to her concert activities the imparting of knowledge about contemporary percussion music is an important concern for her. As part of the International Summer Courses for New Music in Darmstadt she gave a lecture in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Ulrich Mosch in the series "Rückspiegel - Sieben Werke aus sieben Jahrzehnten" on the solo percussion work "Intérieur I" by Helmut Lachenmann. In addition she produced various radio broadcasts on the subject of percussion music and in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Rudolf Frisius she organized a lecture concert on works of contemporary solo percussion music. This project resulted in teaching materials on Karlheinz Stockhausen's "Zyklus" for general education classes at schools, published by Raabe-Verlag Stuttgart. For several semesters she had a teaching position at the University of Music Karlsruhe at the Institute for Music Informatics and Musicology, in the context of which she accompanied research and mediation projects in the field of artistic-scientific research and dealt with the topic of percussion music in the broadest sense (up to the "Reverse Simulation Music" by Masahiro Miwa) with students from various disciplines.

In April 2011 Leonie Klein already attended the University of Music Karlsruhe as a preschooler. 2019 she completed a master's degree in the field of percussion under Prof. Isao Nakamura with honor. Furthermore she completed a master's degree in the field of music journalism for broadcast and multimedia at the University of Music Karlsruhe and the companion course of study in Applied Cultural Studies at the FORUM Science and Society at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), where she works as a research assistant. After working for several years as a music editor at SWR2, she was a substitute professor in percussion at the University of Music Karlsruhe in the winter semester 2023/24. She also works as a music journalist for SWR2 and Deutschlandfunk Kultur, among others.

Leonie Klein was scholarship holder of the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, the Zukunftsinitiative Rheinland-Pfalz (ZIRP), the ZONTA-Club Karlsruhe, the MozartLabor of the Mozartfest Würzburg, received a sponsorship award from the friends of the University of Music Karlsruhe for her special commitment and outstanding activities in the field of contemporary music and was awarded the Mamlok Prize for interpreters of contemporary music in the Konzerthaus Berlin in 2020. 2022 she was admitted to the Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg as a scholarship holder. Her debut CD "gathering thunders" (2018) and her CD "chattering birds" (2023), also released by WERGO, were widely acclaimed. Leonie Klein is a Yamaha Artist.