

The recordings at hand are a collection of commissioned compositions for the **Kultursommer Rheinland-Pfalz** (Schönmehl, Orkin, Fischer-Münster, Michel, Bärenz), and pieces that were incorporated into the programmes of the **Kultursommer** concerts (Amend, Lewark). In 2003, „Ein Land – viele Kulturen“ („One Land – Many Cultures“) was determined by Rhineland Palatinate as the theme for the **Kultursommer**. Mike Schönmehl interpreted this with „Points of Contact“. These points of contact are not only just that, but also overlappings of the diverse cultures of the people living in Germany.

„Turbulenzen“ by Egbert Lewark: Naturally, brass instrumentalists must deal with turbulences. A quintet rehearsal can be a turbulent affair, too. Diverging opinions can lead to differences and therefore cause turbulences, but if everyone illustrates his position, a solution will be found. Different listening interpretations are accomplished.

Erwin Amend liked to base his compositions on traditional folk songs or chorals. In his quintet he exploits variations of the old German song „Wär' ich ein wilder Falke“.

In 2011 the Federal Garden Exhibition took place in Koblenz. Evgeni Orkin invokes Tschaikowskys' Flowers Waltz with a Funk-Samba, „Vosadulis“ („In meinem Garten“). The same **Kultursommer**, Gerhard Fischer-Münster undertook „Drei Na-Touren“, which were no effortless endeavour.

2014s' theme for the **Kultursommer** was determined by Rhineland Palatinate as „Genießen mit allen Sinnen“ („Enjoyment of all bodily senses“). Therefore, church music director Johannes Matthias Michel from Mannheim, chose four wine related Bible quotations. „One should drink a little more wine“, he said with a wink.

Whether indulging in wine can be balanced by coffee, is anyone's guess. In any case, the sequence of the notes C-A-F-E, was used by Martin Bärenz to describe international coffee specialties. Cultural Points of Contact can be found again. We have completed the circle with Splendid Brass and wish the listener to enjoy the music to the fullest.

Mike Schönmehl studied musical education at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, where he himself is lecturing jazz piano since 1996. Since 1995 he also is practicing a lectureship at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Frankfurt/Main. Since 1986 he is an educator at the Frankfurter Musikwerkstatt (FMW). He plays the piano in different bands and has contributed to over 50 recordings. In 1993 one of his numerous publications was awarded as the best edition in adult education by the Deutscher Musikverlegerverband.

Egbert Lewark, the trumpeter of the brass ensemble, likes to transcend musical boundaries and is not set on any musical era or style. Besides Splendid Brass, he has launched many more ensembles which were able to convey significant impulses to the musical community. His endeavour to bring together artists of all branches has, among other things, led to cooperations between Splendid Brass and different painters (first and foremost with HP Wank). Together they conceptualized concerts in which a connection between music and corresponding visual art were established.

Erwin Amend was born in Weilburg an der Lahn. He studied at the Frankfurter Hochschule für Musik. As early as 1939 he was concertmaster of the Frankfurter Kammerorchester. A heartfelt friendship tied him to Paul Hindemith, who influenced his work greatly. From 1947 to 1950 he was concertmaster of the Orchestra at the Stadttheater Gießen and from 1950 to 1955 in Baden-Baden. Here he also founded the internationally renowned Baden-Badener String quartet. In 1955

he was concertmaster in Motala (Sweden). From 1965 until his retirement in 1979 he was concertmaster of the orchestra of the Städtische Bühne (today Staatstheater) Mainz. His varied and extensive compository works include chamber music, symphonical pieces and stage and movie scores. In addition, he privately devoted himself to music historical work.

Evgeni Orkin studied at the National Music Academy in Kiew and in Utrecht and Mannheim. He has already composed seven Chamber symphonies, four great symphonies, solo concerts for violin, piano, saxophone, several works of musical theatre and a great number of works of chamber music. Orkin is working regularly for the SWR-Symphony Orchestra as a freelancing clarinetist in Baden-Baden and Freiburg. For his compositions he has received numerous awards. He is a founding member and clarinetist of the group „Komponistenverschwörung“.

Gerhard Fischer-Münster received his first musical education from his father and later at the Peter-Cornelius-Konservatorium and the Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität in Mainz. Since 1975 he has been lecturing clarinet and improvisation at the Peter-Cornelius-Konservatorium Mainz. He is founder and leader of its wind ensemble. Like Mike Schönmehl, he was a fellow student of Egbert Lewark and has been working with him and his ensembles for many years. His work is generally liked for its often humorous and poignant character.

Johannes Matthias Michel studied church music in Heidelberg and Frankfurt. Until 1992 he studied in the soloist class for organ at the Musikhochschule Stuttgart and graduated with a soloist exam. Since 1999 he has been church music director (Bezirkskantor) at the Christuskirche Mannheim and cantor for Nordbaden. In 2012 he was appointed honorary professor by the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Mannheim.

Martin Bärenz is cellist and composer in Heidelberg. As early as his studying days at the Staatlichen Hochschule für Musik in Mannheim, he was working as a studio musician and arranger with artists such as Hannes Wader and Christoph Stählin. Since 1983, Bärenz has been teaching at the city music schools in Mannheim and Heidelberg as well as at the Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg. He is a member of the Heilbronn Symphony Orchestra and other ensembles. The recorded piece is already the third quintet which he has penned for Splendid Brass.

Splendid Brass was founded in 1989 by Egbert Lewark. Since 1995 it has been regularly involved with the **Kultursommer Rheinand-Pfalz**. The ensembles' headquarters is located in Frankenthal where most of the members are teaching at the music school of the city. The repertoire is comprised of music from five centuries and consists mostly of original pieces. When adapting a piece, Splendid Brass emphasizes stylistic authenticity. Already more than 40 quintets have been composed for this brass ensemble, all of which were premiered by the group. By way of casual presentation during the concerts, the musicians also aim to give the audience an understanding of some of the lesser known works. Conveying the music to children is also an enjoyable commitment for the ensemble.