

Alexej Gerassimez, Percussionist & Composer

Percussionist Alexej Gerassimez, born 1987 in Essen, Germany, is as multi-faceted as the instruments he works with. His repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary and jazz to minimal music whilst also performing his own works.

Alexej Gerassimez performs as a guest soloist with internationally renowned orchestras including those of the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the SWR Radio Symphony Orchestra Stuttgart and the Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin under the direction of conductors such as Gerd Albrecht, Tan Dun, Kristjan Järvi, Eivind Gullberg Jensen and Michel Tabachnik. In addition, Alexej Gerassimez creates solo programmes and participates as an enthusiastic chamber musician in a vast variety of ensembles. His partners include the pianists Arthur and Lucas Jussen, the jazz pianist Omer Klein and the SIGNUM saxophone quartet.

In the new concept program "Genesis of Percussion" Alexej Gerassimez and his percussion group take the audience on a discovery voyage through a wide variety of rhythmic and stylistic cultures, making the origin of sounds and rhythms within our everyday environment visible. Concerts in 2019 lead the ensemble to the Prinzregententheater Munich, the Konzerthaus Dortmund, the Tonhalle Düsseldorf and the Heidelberger Frühling. Other highlights of the 2018-2019 season include his Japan debut, the beginning of a three-year residency at the Konzerthaus Dortmund as "Junger Wilder" and the beginning as a stART artist of Bayer Kultur in Leverkusen.

His own compositions are characterized by the exploration of rhythmic and acoustic possibilities as well as by the creation of individual sounds and the joy of crossing borders. Accordingly, Alexej Gerassimez integrates not only the usual percussion and melody instruments but also objects from different contexts such as bottles, brake discs, barrels or ship propellers. His first CD published by GENUIN in 2012, which also includes his own works, was received enthusiastically by the press. Concerts have led the winner of the ARD Music Competition to China, South Korea, the USA, Switzerland and the Netherlands, and to festivals such as the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, the Bonn Beethovenfest and the Niedersächsische Musiktage. He is a regular guest at the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, and in the summer of 2017 he performed over 20 concerts as artist in residence.

In January 2017 Alexej Gerassimez participated in Sasha Waltz's choreographic and musical exploration of space as part of the opening ceremony of the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. Since then he has performed amongst other things as a soloist with the NDR Radio Philharmonic under the direction of Tan Dun in the Great Hall of the Elbphilharmonie.

Since November 2017 he is professor for percussion at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Munich. Furthermore, he is a regular guest teacher at the Mozarteum Salzburg and the Birmingham Conservatoire.