

## **Resume: long version**

Claus Bantzer was born in Marburg in 1942. He studied piano, organ, and conducting in Frankfurt / Main and in Hamburg. Since 1975, he has been the organist of St. Johannis-Harvestehude in Hamburg, though far beyond Hamburg his name is synonymous for intellectual music at the highest level, for the enjoyment of experiments, and for openness towards other art forms, i.e. crossover projects. Claus Bantzer is the leader of two choirs (St. Johannis Choir and the Harvestehude Chamber Choir), touring with both in Germany and abroad.

Apart from his organ playing and choir leading activities, Claus Bantzer has established himself as a composer in various musical areas (jazz, film music, modern classical music). In 1980, his jazz mass "Missa Popularis" was first performed; in 1993, his jazz cantata "Tu deinen Mund auf für die Stummen" – "Open Your Mouth for the Sake of the Mute" under the presidency of the NDR radio station.

In Hamburg, he works with the HAMBURG CANTATA as a conductor, and apart from the more usual repertoire, he has conducted numerous first performances. Claus Bantzer has written numerous film scores, among them films by Doris Dörrie, Peter Lilienthal, Jan Schütte, and Tevfik Başer. In 1987, he received the Federal Award for Film Music, in 1994 the "Prix de la Sacem" of the Jewish-Israeli Film Festival in France.

In April 2001, Claus Bantzer received the Max-Brauer-Preis of the Alfred Toepfer Foundation F.V.S. In January 2004, he was appointed as a member of the Free Academy of Arts Hamburg.

For his merits for the Hamburg music scene, the Hamburg Senate awarded Claus Bantzer the Senator Biermann Ratjen Medal.

Since November 1999, the renowned concert series "KREUZUNGEN – Musik verwoben" – "CROSSINGS – Music Interwoven" exists at St. Johannis-Harvestehude, in the course of which Claus Bantzer also combines his own highly musically gifted improvisation talent with other art forms, such as painting, literature, or dance.

As a multi-faceted musician, Claus Bantzer works together with the most diverse artists, for instance with singing soloists like Hanna Schwarz, Dorothea Röschmann, and the soloists of the "Himlischen Cantorey" – the "Heavenly Chantry", with jazz musicians like Jan Garbarek, Nils Landgreen, Leszek Zadlo, Warnfried Altmann, and Gabriele Hasler, with the "ElbtonalPercussion" ensemble, and the "G-Strings", with the oud player Dhafer Youssef and the trumpeter Markus Stockhausen, with the choreographer John Neumeier, with the designer Peter Schmidt from Hamburg, the scenographer and lighting artist Michael Batz, with the painter Christoph Niess, with actors like Lena Stolze, Hildegard Schmahl, Christoph Bantzer, Christian Quadflieg, and Hermann Lause, and with authors like Hamid Skif or Rafik Schami.

Various Claus Bantzer CD recordings have been published at ARTE NOVA and OEHMS CLASSICS, documenting an insight into his multi-faceted musical work.