

Vito Žuraj, composer

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Powerful and meticulously crafted compositions, often incorporating theatrical elements and spatial sound concepts, characterise the work of Slovenian composer Vito Žuraj, who was born in Maribor in 1979. His music quickly gained international recognition and has been performed by renowned ensembles such as the New York Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, and Klangforum Wien. He has received commissions from, among others, the Berlin Philharmonic (*Anemoi*), the Frankfurt Opera (*Blühen*, named “World Premiere of the Year” in 2023 by Opernwelt Magazine), and Ensemble intercontemporain (*Ubuquité*).

Žuraj has received numerous accolades, including First Prize at the 57th Composition Prize of the City of Stuttgart in 2012, the Claudio Abbado Composition Prize by the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic, a recognition award from the Art Mentor Foundation Lucerne, and the Prešeren Advancement Award — the highest decoration for artists in Slovenia. He was also a fellow at the German Academy Villa Massimo in Rome, the International House of Artists Villa Concordia Bamberg, and the Civitella Ranieri Foundation. The CD #50 by BR Musica Viva, featuring Žuraj's symphonic work *Automatones* performed by the BRSO under Sir Simon Rattle, was selected as Recording of the Year, "Les Millésimes 2025," by Crescendo Magazine.

Vito Žuraj studied composition in Ljubljana, Dresden, and Karlsruhe with Wolfgang Rihm. Since 2016, he has been Professor of Composition and Music Theory at the Academy of Music of the University of Ljubljana, where he has initiated concerts and international workshops with renowned ensembles such as Ensemble Modern and Ensemble Recherche.

Season 2025/2026