



Frank Martin UP-TO-DATE
 NOVEMBER 2023

Frank Martin 1890-1974
 2024 | 50th Anniversary of Frank Martin's death

03

Frank Martin **60** SECONDS

A series of short films in which musicians and other experts tell us what Frank Martin's music means to them personally. First off with a short characterisation of his music is the conductor Daniel Reuss, artistic director of Cappella Amsterdam, a position he previously held with the RIAS Kammerchor Berlin, the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and the Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne, with all of which he performed music by Martin. His recording of the composer's oratorio **Golgotha** was nominated for a Grammy Award.



Daniel Reuss on Frank Martin

NEWS FLASH

Missing manuscripts

Does anybody know where the following two Frank Martin manuscripts are (in the handwriting of the composer, whether the original or a photocopy)?

Cantate pour le 1er Août (1941, 6'30"; published by Edition Labatiaz)

Pourquoi voient-ils le jour? (1909; version for mixed choir and orchestra & version for voice and piano only)

Please contact Ferry Jongbloed at questions@frankmartin.org or +31 6 2503 3800

Frank Martin and his student society

A blog by Alain Corbellari

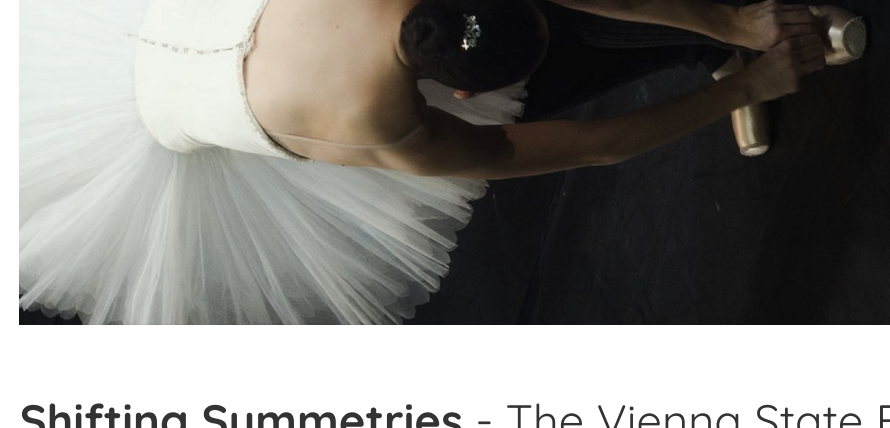
Frank Martin and I have one thing in common in our biographies: we both belonged to the same student society, the Zofingia, in French Zofingue. Founded in 1819 by students who came by foot from Bern and Zürich and adopted the name of the town where they met halfway between their universities, Zofingen, this society quickly spread to all the other higher education establishments in Switzerland. [...] Such eminent figures as the writers Jeremias Gotthelf and Charles-Ferdinand Ramuz, the conductor Ernest Ansermet, the psychologist Carl Gustav Jung and General Henri Guisan were all members. In 1908, Frank Martin – who started out studying mathematics and physics – joined the Geneva section of Zofingen.

[\(read more\)](#)



Flag of the 'Société de Zofingue' in Geneva, designed by Louis George (1831-1901)

Concert highlight - Petite symphonie concertante (ballet)



Shifting Symmetries

Vienna State Ballet

Wiener Staatsoper, Vienna (AT)

• 22 December 2023 | 11:00

• 23 December 2023 | 19:00

• 27 December 2023 | 19:00

• 29 December 2023 | 19:00

• 2 January 2024 | 19:00

• 4 January 2024 | 19:00

• 5 January 2024 | 19:00

Shifting Symmetries - The Vienna State Ballet (Wiener Staatsballett) presents works by the eminent choreographers Hans van Manen, William Forsythe and George Balanchine.

Hans van Manen created Concertante in 1994 for Nederlands Dans Theater 2 to Frank Martin's Petite symphonie concertante, music whose wealth of expression, dynamic rhythms and forceful character inspired him to a ballet in which eight dancers become momentarily attached to and detached from each other again like the pieces of a puzzle; at times joyfully, at times bristling with eroticism, at times filled with aggression, always full of surprises and yet following their own inner logic.

For more information and other concerts see our [Calendar](#).

If you know of a concert featuring music by Frank Martin that is not included in our [Calendar](#), we warmly invite you to send the missing information to pr@frankmartin.org.

Free choral scores of a Christmas carol

by courtesy of Éditions Henry Labatiaz & Frank Martin Society

In the previous newsletter we presented the new publishing house Éditions Henry Labatiaz. As a token of this publisher's dedication to the music of Frank Martin, and with an eye to the approaching Christmas festival, a limited number of licences of *Nous sommes trois souverains princes* have been made available. The composer made a particularly beautiful four-part a cappella setting of this attractive and popular Christmas carol. 300 copies are available (max. 16 per order) in printed form or as a PDF licence; as long as stocks last: editions-henry-labatiaz.ch.

The video below features a performance of this piece by Les Métaboles directed by Léo Warynski.



A CD featuring Martin's Sonata da chiesa



This album was made by a duo of Piedmontese musicians who have explored the richness of the repertoire for flute and organ to create a balanced selection of pieces written by composers of the 20th and 21st centuries from both sides of the Atlantic.

Duo 'Les Brumes' begins with Martin's *Sonata da chiesa*, originally composed in 1938 for viola d'amore and organ. Since his Dutch wife Maria Boeke was an excellent flautist he also made a version for flute and organ in 1941. The sonata's three sections enclose a sequence of gentle, neoclassical dance movements between two reflective slow movements.

Music for Flute and Organ - Martin, Bédard, Kropfreiter, Langlais, Baker, Roth
 Duo 'Les Brumes': Enea Luzzani, flute | Tommaso Mazzeletti, organ
 (Brondino-Vegezzi-Bossi organ in the church of St. Paul in Gland, CH)
 Brilliant Classics 96526 (02/2023)

See also frankmartin.org/work/sonata-da-chiesa/

'Our Man in Switzerland'

... asked Michael Haefliger, Executive and Artistic Director of the Lucerne Festival about his memories of Frank Martin:

'I have several warm memories of Frank Martin. My parents were befriended with the Martin family and my father, the tenor Ernst Haefliger, performed some of his main works, including the chamber opera *Le Vin herbé*, the oratorio *Le Mystère de la Nativité* and the oratorio [In terra pax](#).

I remember once visiting the Martins at their country house in the Netherlands, when the composer was already very old. Maria Martin often visited me during the summer festivals in Lucerne, and our contact was most cordial.'

(photo: Ernst Haefliger, 1919-2007)



'Our Man in Switzerland' is a contribution by Jaap Verbeek, who promotes the performance of Frank Martin's music from his hometown of Lucerne.

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This newsletter is published by the Frank Martin Society and was edited by Ferry Jongbloed, Philip Leussink, Stephen Taylor, Jaap Verbeek and Jacinta Wetzler.

Contact: pr@frankmartin.org

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