

HK Gruber

Composer, conductor & chansonnier



Composer, conductor and chansonnier, HK Gruber was born in Vienna in 1943. Celebrated for his highly individual style, Gruber's music is performed internationally by the world's leading artists and orchestras, such as the Vienna Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic and Berliner Philharmoniker, and at Lucerne Festival, Carnegie Hall and the BBC Proms.

Gruber is particularly noted for his concertos, including *Aerial* for trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger; his Cello Concerto written for Yo-Yo Ma, premiered at Tanglewood in 1989; his percussion concertos *Rough Music* and *Into the Open* premiered by Colin Currie in 2015; and his Piano Concerto for Emanuel Ax. Gruber's orchestral scores include *Dancing in the Dark*, which was premiered by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle in 2003, and *Short Stories from the Vienna Woods*, co-commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Leipzig Gewandhausorchester and premiered in 2022. His operas include *Geschichten aus dem Wiener Wald (Tales from the Vienna Woods)*, premiered at the Bregenz Festival in 2014.

As a conductor, Gruber has performed with the Vienna Philharmonic, Bayerischer Rundfunk Symphony, Philharmonia Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Gruber was Composer/Conductor with the BBC Philharmonic from 2009-2015.

Gruber has performed extensively as chansonnier, most notably in his most popular work, *Frankenstein!!*, which he premiered with Sir Simon Rattle and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic in 1978. Gruber has also performed and recorded the works of Kurt Weill, Hanns Eisler, Schoenberg and Maxwell Davies.

Highlights of the 2024/25 season include Weill-Eisler song evenings with Kirill Gerstein at Tanglewood Festival, Lucerne Piano Festival, and with members of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra; a return to Ensemble Modern to performed works by Hindemith, Korngold, Schoenberg and Weill at the Kölner Philharmonie, and the world premiere of Gruber's Clarinet Concerto, performed by ORF Wien and conducted by Gruber himself.

Gruber's discography includes his own music on BIS and Chandos, works by Brett Dean for BIS, and works by Kurt Schwertsik for Chandos with the BBC Philharmonic. His recording of von Einem's *Der Prozess* with the Vienna Radio Symphony was awarded the Diapason d'Or and Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik in 2019.

Gruber is a recipient of the Greater Austria State Prize, an Honorary Member of the Wiener Konzerthaus, and an Honorary Lifetime Trustee of the Kurt Weill Foundation.

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