

The composer, conductor and pianist Paul Leonard Schäffer was born in Hanover in 1987.

His compositions have been performed at numerous festivals including the Rheingau Musik Festival, the Weimarer Frühjahrestagen für zeitgenössische Musik, the Festival junger Künstler Bayreuth, the Kasseler Musiktagen and at the Händel-Festspielen Karlsruhe as well as in the Deutsche Oper Berlin and the Alte Oper in Frankfurt, played by ensembles such as the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, the Jena Philharmonic, the IEMA Ensemble and the ensemble l'Autre mOnde interpreted. He has received composition commissions from a number of entities such as the Bundeswettbewerb Gesang [National Song Contest] in Berlin and the Schumann Festival in Bonn.

In May 2013, his music theatre work “*Büchners Frauen*” received its premiere at the Staatstheater Wiesbaden in cooperation with the Internationale Ensemble Modern Akademie.

Individual works have been published by Universal Edition, Schott Music Mainz and Edition Ferrimontana.

Paul Leonard Schäffer has conducted ensembles including the Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, the Kammerphilharmonie Sopot and the Kammerphilharmonie Frankfurt with appearances in the Pfalzbau in Ludwigshafen and the Alte Oper in Frankfurt. He has pursued engagements as vocal coach and musical assistant at the Oper Frankfurt and other state theatres in the federal state of Hesse.

In 2011, Schäffer received a scholarship from the Aribert Reimann Foundation and in 2013 the “Heinrich Mann und Paul Hindemith Scholarship” from the Landesmusikrat Hessen [Music Council of Hesse] which enabled a study sojourn in the South of France. Since 2010, he has also received support from the organisation Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now Frankfurt am Main e.V. He was awarded third prize at the orchestral composition competition at the festival Frühjahrestage für zeitgenössische Musik in Weimar.

He is employed as proof-reader and editor in the Concert Opera Media Division at Schott music Mainz.

Paul Leonard Schäffer’s musical training began in the boys’ choir Knabenchor Hannover; at the same time, he also received piano and organ tuition. He studied composition at the HfMDK Frankfurt am Main [Conservatoire for Music and the Performing Arts] with Gerhard Müller-Hornbach, church music with Martin Lücker (organ), and orchestral conducting with Wojciech Rajski and Uwe Sandner. His musical training was supplemented by composition studies with Beat Furrer und Marc André and tuition in lied accompaniment and vocal coaching with Helmut Deutsch und Eugen Wangler.

(Translation: Lindsay Chalmers-Gerbracht)