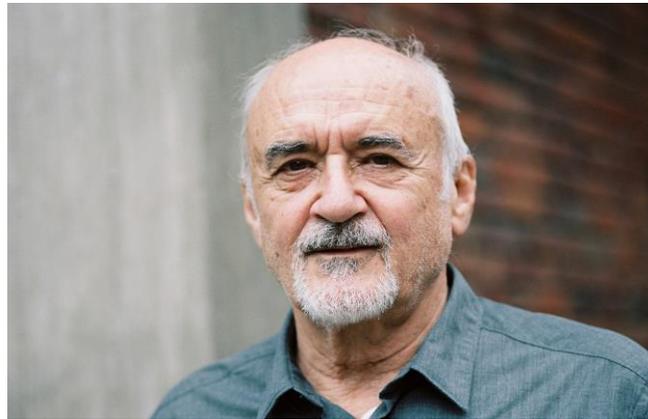




Composer-in-Residence Thomas Kessler 2019 Summer Festival



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Thomas Kessler, who was born in 1937 in Zurich, is considered a pioneer of electronic music.

The Summer Festival will present works for solo instruments and live electronics from Kessler's earlier years (*Control Cycle*) as well as world premieres and recent works such as *Utopia III* (2016) for an orchestra arranged in five groups, which equips the musicians with iPads, microphones, and loudspeakers so they themselves can control the live electronic modulation of their playing. Kessler's collaboration with slam poetry star Saul Williams from Los Angeles resulted in the work *...said the shotgun to the head*, which sets Williams' lyrics not to traditional music but develops musical sounds from speech melody and rhythm. Another project involving the extraordinary partnership between Williams and Kessler will present Kessler's string quartet *NGH WHT*, which will be followed by a solo performance by Williams.

In 1987 Kessler founded the Electronic Studio Basel at the Music Academy of the City of Basel, which offers programs in music theory and composition as well as audio design. Together with Gérard Zinsstag, he founded the *Tage für Neue Musik* (Days for New Music Festival) in Zurich and, with Wolfgang Heiniger, the *ECHT!ZEIT* Festival in Basel. His work catalogue encompasses primarily instrumental music for a wide range of formations, from chamber music to orchestral works; since 1973 he has increasingly used tape, synthesizer, and computer in his work. He was awarded the Swiss Music Prize in 2018.

Mivos Quartet | Saul Williams speaker |
Thomas Kessler sound design
17.08. | 21.00 | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Late Night 1
Kessler String Quartet with live electronics |
NGH WHT for speaker and string quartet |
Williams Solo performance

Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy | Saul
Williams speaker | **Thomas Kessler**
23.08. | 18.20 | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

40min
"Speech-Music: Spoken Word with New
Sounds"

Heinz Holliger oboe | **Jon Roskilly** trombone | **Gilles Grimaître** piano | **Students of the Hochschule Luzern – Musik**

24.08. | 15.00 | Lukaskirche

Orchestra of the Lucerne Festival Academy | **David Fulmer** conductor | **Ruth Reinhardt** conductor | **Saul Williams** speaker

24.08 | 21.00 | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Yuko Kakuta soprano | **Yukiko Sugawara** piano

31.08. | 11.00 | Lukaskirche

Students of the Hochschule Luzern - Musik | **Ruth Reinhardt** conductor | **Daniela Argentino** soprano

11.09. | 18.20 | KKL Luzern, Lucerne Hall

Modern 1

Kessler *Control Cycle*. Works for solo instruments and live electronics and other works

Late Night 2

Kessler *Utopia III* for orchestra (in five groups) and multiple live electronics | ...*said the shotgun to the head* for slammer, slam chorus, and orchestra

Modern 3

Thomas Kessler new work for soprano and piano (to a text by Eugen Gomringer), world premiere and other works

40min

Kessler *Shifted Vibrations* for Quintet (2018) | *Flüchtige Gesänge* to texts by Sarah Kirsch for soprano and ensemble (2012)

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