Biographic Sketch and Work Catalogue

Jörg Widmann was born on 19 June 1973 in Munich, the son of a physicist and a teacher and textile artist. His younger sister is the violinist and violin professor Carolin Widmann. He began clarinet lessons at age 7, completing his education with Gerd Starke at the Munich Music Academy and with Charles Neidich at the Juilliard School in New York. His studies in composition began with Kay Westermann when he was 11 years old; they were continued in 1994-1996 with Wilfried Hiller and Hans Werner Henze and concluded in 1997-1999 with Heiner Goebbels and Wolfgang Rihm. Since the fall of 2001, Widmann has been teaching as professor of clarinet at the Musikhochschule Freiburg; eight years later the same institution additionally named him professor of composition.

As a clarinetist, Widmann champions chamber music. He concertizes regularly with partners like the oboist Heinz Holliger, the violists Tabea Zimmermann and Kim Kashkashian, the pianists András Schiff and Hélène Grimaud, and the soprano Christine Schäfer. Moreover, he is celebrated at home and abroad as a soloist in clarinet concertos, and several contemporary composers have dedicated works for or with clarinet to him. Thus he premiered Wolfgang Rihm's *Music for Clarinet and Orchestra* in 1999, Aribert Reimann's *Cantus* in 2006, Heinz Holliger's *Rechant* in 2009, and Peter Ruzicka's *Three Pieces for Clarinet Solo* in 2012.

In the course of the years 1993 to 2013, i.e., the two decades between his twentieth and his fortieth birthdays, Widmann has written more than eighty compositions. Their instrumentation covers a range from solos (for piano, violin, clarinet, or French horn) and chamber ensembles of two to eight players (frequently including a singer) to concertos, symphonic works, and operas. Among them are several cycles: 24 duos for violin and cello, six *études* for violin solo, six "studies of light," five string quartets, and the orchestral trilogy on "instrumental singing."

Among the internationally celebrated musicians who have premiered Widmann's compositions are Juliane Banse (soprano), Carolin Widmann, Isabelle Faust, and Christian Tetzlaff (violin), Silke Avenhaus, Siegfried Mauser, and András Schiff (piano), Heinz Holliger (as oboist, pianist, and conductor), the Arditti and the Minguet Quartets, as well as the conductors Pierre Boulez, Paavo Järvi, Kent Nagano, Antonio Pappano, Christoph Poppen, and Christian Thielemann.

Three major music-dramatic projects prove Widmann to be also an outstanding composer for the stage. *Das Gesicht im Spiegel* (The Face in the Mirror) originated in 2003 on a commission from the Munich Opera Festival. Restaged by several German opera houses, it was recognized by the journal *Opernwelt* as the most significant operatic premiere of the season 2003/04. *Am Anfang* (At the Beginning) is the result of a unique kind of collaboration between a visual artist and a composer. Widmann created the work in 2009 together with Anselm Kiefer and conducted the world premiere on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Opéra Bastille in Paris. His most recent stage work, *Babylon*, premiered in October 2012 and rescheduled for the Munich Opera Festival 2013, is a commission by the Bavarian State Opera. Widmann and philosopher Peter Sloterdijk (in his first venture as a librettist) designed this music-dramatic *Gesamt-kunstwerk* to present a new interpretation of life in the ancient city.

Widmann is an elected member in the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts, the Hamburg Free Academy of the Arts, and the German Academy of the Performing Arts. Within the twenty years covered in this study, he has received forty awards and prizes for his compositions:

1996	Cultural Promotion Prize of the Bavarian Capital
1997	Bavarian State Prize for Young Artists
1998	Belmont Prize for Contemporary Music, awarded by the
	Forberg Schneider Foundation
2001	Louis Spohr Medal of the City of Seesen
2002	Schneider Schott Music Prize Mainz
	Paul Hindemith Prize
2003	Fellowship of the Ernst von Siemens Foundation
	Prize of the Munich Opera Festival
	Composer-in-residence at the Oxford Chamber Music Festival
2004	Arnold Schönberg Prize
	Composer-in-residence with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra
	Composer-in-residence with the North German Radio Symphony
	Orchestra's series "the new work"
	Composer-in-residence at the Salzburg Festival
2005	Fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin
	Composer-in-residence at the Heidelberg Spring
	Composer-in-residence at the Edinburgh International Festival
	Composer-in-residence at the Summer Music Days at
	Hitzacker

2006	Claudio Abbado Composition Prize of the Berlin Philharmonic
	Orchestra Academy
	Composition Prize of the Southwest German Radio Symphony
	Orchestra "for the most noteworthy premiere at the Donau-
	eschingen Festival" (Second Labyrinth)
	Composer-in-residence at the Dortmund Concert House
	Composer-in-residence with the Essen Philharmonic Orchestra
2007	Composition Prize, Christoph and Stephan Kaske Foundation
2008	Elise Stoeger Prize of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln
	Center, NY, "in recognition of significant contributions to
	chamber music composition"
	Composer-in-residence with the German Radio Philharmonic
	Composer-in-residence at the Marlboro Music Festival in
	Vermont
2008-09	Portrait Concert Series at Wigmore Hall, London
2009	Composer-in-residence with the Cologne Philharmonic
	Composer-in-residence at the Schleswig-Holstein Music
	Festival
	Composer-in-residence at the Lucerne Festival
	Portrait Concerts at the Free Academy of the Arts in Hamburg
	Portrait Concerts at the Schwetzingen Music Festival
2009-11	Composer-in-residence with the Cleveland Orchestra
	Composer-in-residence at the Vienna Concert House
2010	Marsilius Medal of Heidelberg University
	Portrait Concert at the Munich Academy of Arts
	Composer-in-residence at the West Cork Chamber Music
	Festival
2011	Composer Portrait at the Ingolstadt City Theater
2012	Composer Portrait as part of the series "Upbeat" at Frankfurt's
	Alte Oper
2012	Composer Portrait at Carnegie Hall, New York
2012-12	"Widmann in Focus" at the Berlin Philharmonic
2013	German Prize for Music Authors in the category "symphonic
	music," awarded by GEMA (the copyright protection agency
	for composers, lyricists, and music publishers)
	Music Prize of the Heidelberg Spring Festival
	Premio Arthur Rubinstein of the Teatro La Fenice Venice

Work Catalogue (chronological, 1993-2013)

- 1993 180 beats per minute for string sextet, premiered 1993, Munich Music Academy, by G. Adorján · E. Geise · E. Steinschaden · T. Tetzlaff · B. Weinmeister · D. Adorján
- 1993 Fantasy for clarinet solo, premiered March 1994, Munich, Bavarian Radio, by J. Widmann
- 1995 Étude for violin solo no. I, premiered 1995, London, Purcell Room, by P. Sheppard
- 1996 *Tränen der Musen* (Muses' Tears) for clarinet, violin, and piano, premiered 5 July 1997, Holzhausen on the Ammersee, by J. Widmann · C. Poppen · W. Rieger
- 1997 Fünf Bruchstücke (Five Fragments) for clarinet and piano, premiered 10 April 1997, Munich Biennial Music Festival, by J. Widmann · M. Eggert
- 1997 *K(l)eine Morgenstern-Szene* (Small/No Scene on Morgenstern), short opera for soprano, actor, Russian cimbalom or dulcimer, and percussion, commissioned by the Gasteig Cultural Center, premiered 2 December 1997, Munich, Carl Orff Hall, by T.M. Froidl · O. Mishula · R. Rossmanith
- 1997 Insel der Sirenen (Isle of the Sirens) for solo violin and 19 strings, commissioned by the Munich Chamber Orchestra, premiered 1997 at the "Warsaw Autumn" by
 I. Faust and the Munich Chamber Orchestra / C. Poppen
- 1997 Sieben Abgesänge auf eine tote Linde (Seven Swan Songs for a Dead Linden Tree) on poems by Diana Kempff for soprano, violin, clarinet, and piano, premiered 5 July 1997, Holzhausen on the Ammersee, by J. Banse · C. Poppen · J. Widmann · W. Rieger
- 1997 Fleurs du mal, piano sonata after Baudelaire, premiered 26 June 1998, Eching near Munich, by A. Gourari

- 1997 *Ist String Quartet* commissioned by the Karl Klingler Foundation for its international string quartet competition, premiered 1998, Berlin, by participants in the competition
- 1998 *Duel* for trombone and electric guitar, premiered 9 February 1998, Karlsruhe, by C. Varner · T. Töpp
- 1998 *Nachtstück* (Night Piece) for clarinet, violoncello, and piano, premiered 17 April 1998, Dresden, Albrechtsberg Castle, by J. Widmann · J. Vogler · S. Avenhaus
- 1998 Incidental music for the performance of Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* at the Munich Kammerspiele Theater, premiered 7 June 1998
- 1999 Incidental music for the performance of Euripides's *Hecabe* at the Munich Kammerspiele Theater, premiered 7 February 1999
- 1997 Arlechino Rabbioso for self-playing fairground organ, commissioned by the Siemens Culture Program, premiered August 1997, Magdeburg city square, by H. Ballmann's barrel organ
- 1999 Wandrers Nachtlied (Wanderer's Night Song) for soprano and five instruments, commissioned by the Siemens Culture Program for the Ensemble Phorminx, premiered 26 May 1999, Frankfurt, Museum for Applied Arts, by C. Schlüter and the Ensemble Phorminx
- 1999 *Ikarische Klage* (Icarian Lament) for 10 strings, commissioned by CREDIT SUISSE for the 14th Music Festival in Davos, Switzerland, premiered 14 August 1999, Davos, by the Davos Music Festival Chamber Orchestra / G. Contratto
- 1999 Fieberphantasie (Fever Fantasy) for piano, string quartet, and B-flat or bass clarinet, commissioned by the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts, premiered 27 November 1999, Munich, Bavarian Radio Corporation, by M. Cantoreggi · R. Lotter · H. Schlichtig · C. Richter · J. Widmann · S. Avenhaus

- 2000 ... umdüstert ... [gloom-encircled] for chamber ensemble, commissioned by the friends of the National Theater and of the Munich Biennial Music Festival, premiered 25 February 2000, Munich, by members of the Bavarian State Opera Orchestra · S. Mauser
- 2000 Dunkle Saiten (Dark Strings) for violoncello, orchestra, and two female voices, premiered 10 July 2000, Hannover, EXPO 2000, German pavilion, by J. Vogler · S. Kammer · U. Hesse and the Munich Chamber Orchestra / C. Poppen
- 2000 Passacaglia for piano, violin, and violoncello, commissioned by the Angell Piano Trio, premiered 28 October 2000, Winterthur, by the Angell Piano Trio
- 2001 Fragment in C for pianoforte premiered 16 March 2001, Munich, Gasteig, by M. Borboudakis
- 2001 *Lichtstudie I* (Light Study no. I) for orchestra, commissioned by the Bavarian Radio Corporation, premiered 15 May 2001, Bamberg, by the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra / C. Poppen
- 2001 Das Echo (The Echo), scene for one actor, female voice, and nine instruments, on texts by V. Linhartova and J. Becker, commissioned by Frankfurt Opera, premiered 23 June 2001, Frankfurt, by the Ensemble Modern / D. Coleman
- 2001 Étude for violin solo no. II, premiered 9 July 2001, Cheltenham Festival, by I. Faust
- 2001 Implosion for Orchestra, commissioned by the Southwest German Radio Corporation, premiered 21 October 2001, Donaueschingen Music Days, by the Southwest German Symphony Orchestra Baden-Baden & Freiburg / S. Cambreling

- 2001 Polyphone Schatten Lichtstudie II (Polyphonic Shadows Light Study no. II) for viola, clarinet, and orchestral groups, commissioned by the West German Radio Corporation, premiered 12 January 2002, Cologne Philharmonic Hall, by C. Desjardins · J. Widmann and the West German Radio Symphony Orchestra Cologne / H. Holliger
- 2002 Étude for violin solo no. III, premiered 9 May 2003, Witten Days for New Chamber Music, by C. Widmann
- Freie Stücke (Free Pieces) for orchestra,
 version for orchestra premiered 8 March 2002, Cologne,
 Philharmonic Hall, by the Ensemble Modern / D. My
 version for ensemble premiered 12 December 2002, Munich,
 by the Munich Chamber Orchestra / C. Poppen
- 2002 Lichtstudie III (Light Study no. III) for piano, commissioned by the Lucerne Festival, premiered 10 September 2002, Lucerne Festival, by M. Kodama
- 2002 *Toccata* for piano, commissioned by the 51st International Music Competition of the ARD (General Radio Stations of Germany), premiered September 2002, Munich, by participants in the competition
- 2002 ad absurdum, concert piece for trumpet and small orchestra, commissioned by the Essen Philharmonic Orchestra and the Munich Chamber Orchestra, premiered 18 January 2006, Essen Philharmonic Hall, by S. Nakariakov and the Munich Chamber Orchestra / C. Poppen
- 2003 Lichtstudie IV (Light Study no. IV) for violin and piano, premiered 15 January 2003, Munich, by C. Widmann · S. Mauser
- 2003 Signale (Signals) for 6 voices, commissioned by the West German Radio Corporation for the Witten Days for New Chamber Music, premiered 11 May 2003, Witten Days for New Chamber Music, by the Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart

- 2003/10 Das Gesicht im Spiegel (The Face in the Mirror), music drama in 16 scenes on a libretto by Roland Schimmelpfennig, commissioned by the Bavarian State Opera for the 2003 Munich Opera Festival, initial version premiered 17 July 2003, Munich, Cuvilliés Theater, by S. Kammer · J. Rempe · D. Duesing · R. Salter · The Tölz Boys Choir and the Orchestra of the Bavarian State Opera / P. Rundel revised version premiered 27 March 2010, Düsseldorf Opera, by S. M. Sun · A. Fritsch · J. Bobby · S. Heidemann / A. Kober
- 2003 "Chorale Quartet," 2nd string quartet, commissioned by the Summer Music Days at Hitzacker and private sponsors, premiered 29 July 2003, Hitzacker, by the Keller Quartet
- 2003 "Hunting Quartet," 3rd string quartet, commissioned by the Badenweiler Music Days in Römerbad, premiered 12 November 2003, Badenweiler, by the Arditti Quartet
- 2003 Lied for Orchestra (revised 2009), commissioned by the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, initial version premiered 10 December 2003, Bamberg, by the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra / J. Nott revised version premiered 23 April 2010, London, by the BBC Symphony Orchestra / L. Renes
- 2003 Resonance Study for piano, commissioned by the Albert Concerts Freiburg, premiered 13 December 2003, Freiburg, by Irene Russo, Piano
- 2004 Choir for Orchestra, commissioned by the Radio Orchestras and Choirs Berlin, premiered 15 February 2004, Berlin, Philharmonic Hall, by the German Symphony Orchestra Berlin / K. Nagano
- 2004 Octet for clarinet, horn, bassoon, string quartet, and double bass, commissioned by the Association of Art Sponsoring Düren for the chamber music festival "Tensions. Music in the Power Plant," premiered 4 June 2004, Heimbach, by
 J. Widmann · S. Schweigert · S. Mahni Haas · F. Donderer ·
 A. Weithaas · T. Masurenko · C. Bohórquez · Y. Kawahara

- 2004 Light Study no. V for accordion and clarinet and Light Study no. VI for five soloists and orchestra, commissioned by the North German Radio Corporation, premiered 9 October 2004, Hamburg, North German Radio series "the new work," by C. Widmann · C. Desjardins · J. Widmann · T. Anzellotti ·
 - S. Avenhaus and the North German Radio Symphony / S. Asbury
- 2005 4th String Quartet, commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Gaudin for the Vogler Quartet, premiered 16 January 2005, Essen, Philharmonic Hall, by the Vogler Quartet
- Versuch über die Fuge (Essay on the Fugue),
 5th string quartet with soprano,
 commissioned by Juliane Banse and the Artemis Quartet,
 premiered 20 February 2005, Cologne, West German Radio, by
 J. Banse and the Artemis Quartet
- 2005 Sphinxensprüche und Rätselkanons (Sphinxes' Sayings and Riddle Canons) for soprano, clarinet, and piano, commissioned by the Badenweiler Music Days in Römerbad, premiered 10 March 2005, Badenweiler, by C. McFadden · J. Widmann · J.-E. Bayouzet
- 2005 Mass for Large Orchestra, commissioned by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, premiered 5 June 2005, Munich, Gasteig, by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra / C. Thielemann
- 2005 Air for French horn solo, commissioned by the International Music Competition of the ARD (General Radio Stations of Germany), premiered September 2005, Munich, by participants in the competition
- 2005 Labyrinth for 48 strings, commissioned by the German Symphony Orchestra Berlin and the Arnold Schönberg Center Vienna, premiered 3 October 2005, Berlin, Philharmonic Hall, by the German Symphony Orchestra Berlin / K. Nagano

- 2006 Elegy for clarinet and orchestra, commissioned by the North German Radio Corporation, premiered 11 June 2006, Hamburg, by J. Widmann and the North German Radio Symphony Orchestra / C. v. Dohnányi
- 2006 Echo Fragments for clarinet and orchestral groups, commissioned by the Southwest German Radio Corporation, premiered 25 June 2006, Freiburg, by J. Widmann and the Southwest German Radio Symphony Orchestra Baden-Baden & Freiburg and the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra / S. Cambreling
- 2006 Violin Concerto, commissioned by the Young German Philharmonic Orchestra, premiered 17 September 2007, Essen, Philharmonic Hall, by C. Tetzlaff and the Young German Philharmonic Orchestra / M. Honeck
- 2006 Étude for violin solo no. IV, commissioned by the Lower Saxony Foundation for the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover, premiered 1-14 October 2006, Hannover, by participants in the competition
- 2006 Second Labyrinth for orchestral groups, commissioned by the Southwest German Radio Corporation, premiered 22 October 2006, Donaueschingen Music Days, by the Southwest German Radio Symphony Orchestra Baden-Baden & Freiburg / H. Zender
- 2006 *Quintet* for oboe, clarinet, French horn, bassoon, and piano, commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic's orchestra academy, premiered 10 November 2006, Berlin, small philharmonic hall, by V. Aviat · J. Zurl · D. Ember · M. Fattori · M. Stockhausen-Riegelbauer
- 2007 *Armonica* for orchestra, commissioned by the Foundation Mozarteum Salzburg, premiered 27 January 2007 Salzburg, International Mozart Week, by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra / P. Boulez

- 2007 Schallrohr (Sound Tube) for voice and piano, commissioned by "Music of the Centuries," premiered 4 February 2007, Stuttgart, Eclat Festival, by A. Elster · F. Hoelscher
- 2007 Elf Humoresken (Eleven Humoresques) for piano, commissioned by the Carnegie Hall Corporation, premiered 4 May 2008, New York, Carnegie Hall, by Y. Bronfman
- 2008 Valse bavaroise for piano, premiered 2 October 2008, Mainz, by J. Widmann
- 2008 Étude for violin solo no. V ("Hommage à Niccolò Paganini"), commissioned by the Association of Arts and Culture of the German Economy at the Federation of German Industries, premiered 19 October 2008, Würzburg, Neubaukirche, by S. Yang
- 2008 Antiphon for orchestral groups, commissioned by Hessen Radio Corporation, premiered 27 February 2008, Frankfurt Old Opera, by the Hessen Radio Symphony Orchestra / P. Järvi
- 2008 *13 Duos* for violin and violoncello, commissioned by the Forberg Schneider Foundation, premiered 30 August 2008, Bad Reichenhall, Old Royal Spa Hotel, by C. Widmann · J.-G. Queyras
- 2008 11 Duos for violin and violoncello, commissioned by the festival "Rencontres artistiques de Bel-Air," premiered 1 September 2008, Château de Chambéry, Chapelle, Rencontres de Musique de Chambre de Bel-Air, by R. and G. Capuçon
- 2008 *Con brio*, concert overture for orchestra, commissioned by the Bavarian Radio Corporation, premiered 25 September 2008, Munich, Gasteig, by the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra / M. Jansons
- 2009 *Idyll und Abgrund* (Idyll and Abyss), six Schubert reminiscences for piano, premiered 24 April 2009, Munich, Allerheiligen-Hofkirche, by S. Mauser

- 2009 *Teiresias* for six double basses ("Hommage à Claudio"), commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic Foundation, premiered 20 May 2009, Berlin, small philharmonic hall, by members of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra
- 2009 Dubairische Tänze for ensemble ("Duba[i]varian Dances"), commissioned by the Ensemble Modern and the Siemens Arts Program, premiered 27 May 2009, Berlin, Concert House, by the Ensemble Modern / F. Ollu
- 2009 Am Anfang (At the Beginning), dramatized installation with Anselm Kiefer, commissioned by the Opéra Bastille, premiered 7 July 2009, Paris, Opéra Bastille, by G. Boivin · C. Schönfeldinger · T. Anzellotti · J. Widmann and the Orchestra of the Opéra National de Paris / J. Widmann
- 2009/10 *Oboe Concerto*,
 commissioned by the Lucerne Festival,
 initial version premiered 13 August 2009, Lucerne Festival, by
 H. Holliger and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra / G. Benjamin;
 complete 5-movement version premiered 27 January 2011,
 during the Salzburg Mozart Week, by
 H. Holliger and the Camerata Salzburg / J. Widmann
- 2010 Étude for violin solo no. VI ("Lullaby for Salome"), commissioned by the West German Radio Corporation, premiered 23 April 2010, Witten Days for New Chamber Music, by C. Widmann
- 2010 *Liebeslied* (Love Song) for eight instruments, premiered 12 June 2010, Freiburg, Morat Institute, by the ensemble recherche
- 2010 *Intermezzi* for piano ("for András Schiff"), commissioned by the Salzburg Festival, premiered 10 August 2010, Salzburg Festival, by A. Schiff
- 2010 *Sommersonate* (Summer Sonata) for violin and piano, mvt. I, commissioned by the International Beethoven Festival Bonn, premiered 17 September 2010, Beethoven House Bonn, by R. Capuçon · F. Braley

- 2010 Souvenir bavarois for orchestra, commissioned by the Cincinnati Symphony with support from A. & H. Santen, premiered 3 February 2011, Cincinnati Music Hall, by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra / P. Järvi
- 2011 Flûte en suite for flute and orchestral groups, commissioned by the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, premiered 26 May 2011, Cleveland, Severance Hall, by J. Smith and the Cleveland Orchestra / F. Welser-Möst
- 2011 Teufel Amor (Devil Amor), symphonic hymn after Schiller, commissioned by the Vienna Concert House, Cologne Music Society, the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, Paris, and Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam, premiered 13 April 2012, Vienna, Concert House, by the Vienna Philharmonic / A. Pappano
- 2011 Bayerisch-babylonischer Marsch (Bavarian-Babylonian March) for orchestra, commissioned by the Bavarian State Opera, premiered 9 December 2011, Munich, National Theater, by the Orchestra of the Bavarian State Opera / K. Nagano
- 2012 Zirkustänze (Circus Dances) for piano, commissioned by the Carnegie Hall Corporation New York, premiered 2 May 2012, New York, Carnegie Zankel Hall, by A. Schiff
- 2012 Babylon, opera in seven tableaux, libretto by Peter Sloterdijk, commissioned by the Bavarian State Opera, premiered 27 October 2012, Munich, National Theater, by A. Prohaska · J. Myllys · C. McFadden · W. White · G. Schnaut · K. Wessel and the Bavarian State Orchestra and Choir / K. Nagano
- 2013 Scorpion for countertenor, B-flat and contrabass clarinet, violoncello, and accordion, commissioned by the Eclat New Music Festival Stuttgart, premiered 9 February 2013, Stuttgart Theater, by D. Gloger · St. Schneider · J.-G. Queyras · T. Anzellotti

- 2013 Romanze for violin and piano, mvt. II of Sommersonate, commissioned by the Festival de Pâques Aix-en-Provence, premiered 5 April 2013, Grand Théâtre de Provence, by R. Capuçon · F. Braley
- 2013 Liederzyklus (AT) für Bariton und Klavier commissioned by premiered 23 October 2013, Vienna Concert House, by C. Gerhaher · G Huber