

Clara Wagner

Speech of Acceptance

Förderpreis der Deutschen Nationalstiftung 2023

First, I would like to tell that Olivier MANTEI, the CEO of Philharmonie de Paris, apologizes for not being able to attend this event, what he deeply regrets. He has to be at the Aix- en Provence Festival where our orchestra, l'Orchestre de Paris, performs in a new co-production with his conductor Klaus Makelä.

It is with great honor that we receive this award on behalf of the Paris Philharmonie, and with a feeling enhanced by your presence Mr. Anselm Kiefer. Warm thanks to your giving your prize to HANGARMUSIK and the Philharmonie de Paris. I also deeply thank the staff of the German National Foundation (Nationalstiftung) very much for awarding this prestigious prize. It means a lot to all of us.

First, we are very delighted to share the honors with HANGARMUSIK, without whom the French-German Demos youth orchestra project could not have expressed itself in such a beautiful way as it did at the Pantheon on January 22nd, 2023, in order to celebrate the 60th birthday of the Elysée Traité. I would also like to share this award with Al-Farabi Musikakademie, our second dear partner in the French-German Demos orchestra project, and the conductor Anna Sophie Brüning.

This prize rewards also the French-German dialogue, which brings us back to a deep history and to profound imaginaries. It appears as a strong symbol to be able to articulate this relationship with the values of transmission and openness of the Philharmonie de Paris.

Indeed, if the Paris Philharmonie devotes significant attention to present an ambitious artistic project, education and especially inclusive education stands as one of its strongest pillars and the Demos youth orchestra project is its greatest embodiment.

This musical project aims at removing social and cultural barriers to music practice. For us, the classical music heritage belongs to all of us. Therefore, since 2010, through youth orchestras, 10.000 youngsters, far away from the music practice because of cultural, economic or social reasons, have been able to participate to an orchestra during 3 years with an intensive training by professional musicians and supported by social workers. We want excellence for each child because we deeply believe that musical practice and especially the collective one inside an orchestra contributes to the personal developpement of children and consequently to social cohesion, so essential in these troubled times

Until today we have made up around 100 orchestras all over France, with the support of the French gouvernement, local authorities and donors. More and more, we would like to create partnerships with other countries which share the same concern about social cohesion,

transmission and equality. The first step was with Germany with the very helpful support of OFAJ. Thank you very much Anne Tallineau and Tobias Bütow.

Last but not least, I would like to dedicate this prize to all the kids, musicians, social workers, the founder and director of Démos, Gilles Delebarre, the staff of the Philharmonie involved in the Démos project, and the gorgeous sponsor figures the former footballplayer Lilian Thuram, the pianist Khatia Buniatishvili the philosopher Souleymane Bachir Diagne that I quote « *We need to bring humanity together. It seems to me that the best way to be together is music. Around it, we all form a community : those who play as well as those who listen. The meaning of education and the passion of transmission is to ensure the talent of each one grows and enters a whole* ».

Thank you very much.