

Resume Claus Bantzer:

Short version

Claus Bantzer was born in Marburg in 1942. He studied piano, organ, and conducting in Frankfurt / Main and in Hamburg. Since 1975, he has been the organist of St. Johannis-Harvestehude in Hamburg, though far beyond Hamburg his name is synonymous for intellectual music at the highest level, for the enjoyment of experiments, and for openness towards other art forms, i.e. crossover projects.

In 1980, his jazz mass "Missa Popularis" was first performed; in 1993, his jazz cantata "Tu deinen Mund auf für die Stummen" – "Open Your Mouth for the Sake of the Mute" under the presidency of the NDR radio station.

Apart from his organ playing and choir leading activities, Claus Bantzer has established himself as a composer in various musical areas (jazz, film music, modern classical music). In Hamburg, he works with the HAMBURG CANTATA as a conductor, and apart from the more usual repertoire, he has conducted numerous first performances. In 1987, he received the Federal Award for Film Music, in 1994 the "Prix de la Sacem" of the Jewish-Israeli Film Festival in France.

Since November 1999, the renowned concert series "KREUZUNGEN – Musik verwoben" – "CROSSINGS – Music Interwoven" exists at St. Johannis-Harvestehude, in the course of which Claus Bantzer also combines his own highly musically gifted improvisation talent with other art forms.

In April 2001, Claus Bantzer received the Max-Brauer-Preis of the Alfred Toepfer Foundation F.V.S. In January 2004, he was appointed as a member of the Free Academy of Arts Hamburg. For his merits for the Hamburg music scene, the Hamburg Senate awarded Claus Bantzer the Senator Biermann Ratjen Medal.

Various Claus Bantzer CD recordings have been published at ARTE NOVA and OEHMS CLASSICS, documenting an insight into his multi-faceted musical work.