

## **For Shalom Ash - five pieces for orchestra (1995-98/2002)**

(Suite from the opera "Mottke the Thief")

WP: 21.1.2003, Gewandhaus zu Leipzig, MDR-Sinfonieorchester, conductor: Rolf Gupta

1 (also picc. und Afl.).1.2 (1st in B and E flat, 2nd Bass clar.). 1 S-Sax.1. -

1.1 (also Flügelhorn).1.1. - P.S (4). - 2 pianos (1st also synthes.) - harp - E-guit. - Bass-guit. - 4.4.3.3.1. (more possible) - tape (CD)

Duration: 12`

Publishers: Breitkopf & Härtel

My second opera Mottke the Thief came into existence through the instigation of Hans Werner Henze and was a commission from the Munich Biennale

At the beginning I had several opportunities to work on the outline of the libretto with Henze through conversations in Rome, Munich, Leipzig and Berlin. The final English version was written by Jonathan Moore who was also the librettist for Turnage's "Greek". Moore also directed the Première in 1998.

The collaboration with Henze and the detailed conversations over dramaturgy, opera, theatre, and art in general led me to a fundamental reconsideration of my aesthetic and stylistic position and was an important biographical event in my development. Not that Henze directly influenced me stylistically, but the "prod" from outside and the encouragement of certain artistic paths and projects was important for me in the mid 90s.

Differing musical and extra-musical factors affected me during my work on the opera: the concentration on the Bandoneon, the world of the circus and of variety, the involvement with Jimi Hendrix, the electric guitar and the roots of the blues, composing with electronic elements among other things an amplified cage as a musical instrument, the bringing in of Asian techniques in the playing of timpani, the confrontation between Aleatoric and the rudiments of established scoring and : the experience gained in my cycle half-way house-SOLO XFACH (für Joseph Beuys). After the Première of my opera Mottke the Thief in June 1998 in Bonn, I immediately had the idea to produce a suite and to "bundle" parts of my opera to reach a wider public.

I was encouraged by various conductors and directors and am pleased that MDR offered me the opportunity, through their commission of a new work, to bring this idea of a piece for Bandoneon and Orchestra to fruition.

I use parts of both Acts in my suite, the first Act being given the greater weight.

The suite is dedicated to the Polish-Jewish author, Shalom Ash, who wrote the book Mottke the Thief which served as the basis for the English libretto.

Bernd Franke Leipzig 28.12.02