

PRESS RELEASE

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German Music Authors' Award

Lifetime achievement award for Sofia Gubaidulina

At the 9th award ceremony of the Deutsche Musikautorenpreis (German Music Authors' Award) on 30 March 2017 in Berlin, GEMA is going to honour the internationally renowned composer Sofia Gubaidulina for her lifetime achievement.

Sofia Gubaidulina is regarded as an icon of contemporary classical music. The Russian-born composer has been a significant influence on events in contemporary music with her works which are highly innovative and true to tradition at the same time. It was with the premiere of her epic first Violin concert "Offertorium" dedicated to the violinist Gidon Kremer in 1981, if not sooner, that she became an international force. This year, GEMA honours the work of the 85-year-old composer with the Deutsche Musikautorenpreis in the category "lifetime achievement".

"When the message reached me that I was deemed worthy of the Deutsche Musikautorenpreis 2017 for my lifetime achievement, I was delighted and extremely grateful", Sofia Gubaidulina rejoices about the news on the award. "At the beginning of my activity as a composer in the Soviet Union, I wouldn't have dreamt of my works receiving such international appreciation one day. I feel very honoured because I respect GEMA tremendously. Its work contributes a great deal towards creative activities in our society always getting their due recognition."

This year's jury considers Sofia Gubaidulina as the "Grande Dame" of composition: "In her works, she combines deep religiousness with the Far Eastern culture she admires so much; traditional folk instruments are placed next to scores for big classical orchestras. She develops Russian music tradition further to a universal language of faith. Her life work consists of confessional music in the highest degree, always existential and vital in every second."

Prof. Dr Enjott Schneider, Chairman of the GEMA Supervisory Board welcomes the jury's decision: "With Sofia Gubaidulina, a Russian cosmopolitan creator who has been living in Germany since 1992, a worldwide celebrated composer is honoured whose music easily finds its way into people's hearts: This is not done by way of pleasantness, but via an uncompromising, harsh and simplistic severity of a beautifully conveyed frugality. There are no superfluous or superficial ornaments but each tone is expression and agitation. Her life, fulfilled by spirituality proves to be an absolute match to her music scores."

About the Deutsche Musikautorenpreis

The Deutsche Musikautorenpreis was launched by GEMA in 2009, in order to honour composers and lyricists from the German music sector for their outstanding achievements. Under the slogan "**Authors honour authors**", music creators who rather often do not enjoy the limelight of the stage but stand in the shadows of the artists, come to the fore. The prize is under the patronage of the Federal Government



Commissioner for Culture and Media, **State Minister Prof. Monika Grütters** (member of the German Bundestag). It is awarded in ten categories, of which seven are re-determined each year by the Akademie Deutscher Musikautoren (**Academy of German Music Authors**). The different categories reflect the diversity of the artists and genres that GEMA represents. This means that music authors of serious music (E) stand together on the stage with their colleagues from the light music (U) category. Permanent categories are the lifetime achievement award, young talent promotion in the categories E and U (worth EUR 10,000) and the most successful work. The award in the category most successful work is being determined by GfK Entertainment. All winners and nominees are, by way of being awarded, accepted as members of the Akademie Deutscher Musikautoren (Academy of German Music Authors). Further information can be accessed at www.musikautorenpreis.de and www.adma.de.

The jury of the Deutsche Musikautorenpreis 2017: Detlev Glanert (Composition music for music theatre), Sarah Hakenberg (Lyrics music cabaret), Samir Odeh-Tamimi (Composition symphonics), Marek Pompetzki (Composition Hip-Hop), Catharina Sieland alias Cäthe (Composition Rock/Pop), Jutta Staudenmayer (Lyrics 'Schlager') and Andreas Weidinger (Composition audiovisual media)

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