

Maxim Shalygin (1985, Ukraine / Netherlands)

<https://linktr.ee/maximshalygin>

Maxim Shalygin is a Ukrainian-Dutch composer (was born in Kamianske, formerly Dniprodzerzhynsk, Ukraine in 1985).

Shalygin began studying composition seriously at the age of sixteen with Irina Ivashenko in his native city Kamianske. In 2004 he trained with Boris Tishchenko at the N. Rimsky-Korsakov St. Petersburg State Conservatory (RU). Less than in one year he returns to Ukraine. He received his first master's degree in 2010 at the National Music Academy in Kyiv (UA), where he studied with Igor Shcherbakov and developed under the great influence of the creativity and personality of composer Svyatoslav Lunyov. One year later, in 2011, Shalygin received his second master's degree at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague (NL), where he studied with Cornelis de Bondt and Diderik Wagenaar. He currently lives and works in the Netherlands.



Shalygin's compositions includes works in various genres: chamber, vocal, symphonic, electro-acoustic music, as well as music for theatre, ballet, and film. Since 2016 he is a founder, conductor and an artistic member of the Shapeshift Ensemble (NL), which marked the beginning of the **SIMILAR** project. The macrocycle for a lifetime in which each new chapter is at least an hour and written for a certain number of identical instruments, top-class musicians who can reproduce sometimes the most complex and sophisticated colors of the score.

Shalygin's compositions combine a wide range of techniques with psychological insight and spirituality. Composer extends the traditional array of playing techniques, not so much by resorting to 'extended techniques', rather is out at unfolding the sounds of the instruments in all their congenial sonority. No academic formulas hence, nor avant-garde radicalisms, but rather a self-conceived scale of playing techniques in its own right that never severs the ties with sonority, and thus allows for maintaining a thoroughly tonal language.

Maxim Shalygin: *"My quest is for the lost bridge linking us with wholeness. Deep down in our dreams sits this code and I believe we are capable of re-creating it to understand anew what beauty means in music. That is why I do my utmost to peruse and absorb the most divergent genres, so as not to forego any large fish in the nets I put out. I want to find incredible glides of harmonies, textures, timbres — unheard ever before but craved and cherished nevertheless. My compositions combine a wide range of techniques with psychological insight and spirituality, however I do not have one single compositional approach. To each and every work I have to find a new key. The only thing uniting the process each time is that I'm listening attentively to every inch of my material to try and hear in it a sound yet unrevealed. To dive as deep as possible, holding my breath and hardly stirring, so as not to trouble the crystal clarity of the matter under scrutiny."*

In 2012 Shalygin obtained an honorable mention at the 2012 Gaudeamus competition for his "Letters to Anna" symphony for violin solo. In the same year, his music was selected for Lars von Trier's "Gesamt" project. Shalygin was a composer-in-residence in Izolyatsia [UA], Storioni Festival, Soundsofmusic Festival [NL], and at the moment in residence at the Tomoko Mukaiyama Foundation [NL]. In 2022 , a digital chain between more than 50 European festi-

vals, started by the Dutch festival Wonderfeel, commissioned Maxim Shalygin a 'drop after drop'. The piece is about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but of course also about the devastation of the war in a broader sense. In different arrangements, it was performed at the halls and festivals worldwide, as a symbol of solidarity and compassion with Ukrainian colleagues, artists, and all those who are suffering in this senseless war.

Leading contemporary music ensembles who have performed his works include National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Amsterdam Cello Octet, The Choir of Trinity Wall Street, Bavarian Radio Choir, Netherlands Radio Choir, Netherlands Chamber Choir, AskolSchönberg, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Members of the Royal Concertgebouw orchestra, DoelenKwartet, Insomnio, Nieuw Ensemble, Slagwerk Den Haag, Amstel Quartet and Keuris Quartet and many more.

His works have been performed at many famous venues and music festivals worldwide, including Music on Main (Vancouver, Canada), Klarafestival, Piano Biënnale (Brussel, Belgium), Musikwoche Hitzacker 2022, IMPULS 2022 | Festival für Neue Musik, Konzertsaal, HMDK Stuttgart, Piano Salon Christophori, Einstein Kultur - Theater Musik (Germany), Musique de Chambre en Normandie (France), Galway Cathedral Organ Festival (Ireland), Carnegie Hall, Jersey City Theater Center | JCTC, Congregation Sherith Israel (US), PODIUM.festival Mödling (Austria), Kunstzone Lokremise St. Gallen (Switzerland), Filharmonia Łódzka (Poland), The National Philharmonic of Ukraine, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, LSO St Luke's (UK), Kozushima Island & The Museum of Art (Japan), Dag in de Branding, Gaudeamus Muziekweek, WoNDeRFeel festival, November Music Festival, Zuiderstrandtheater, Soundsofmusic, MerkAz, Cello Biënnale Amsterdam, Oerol Festival, Nederlands Violconcoors, Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, TivoliVredenburg, Concertgebouw (The Netherlands) and many more.