

## *le2dam*

Duo for music for trumpet and piano.

Opposites attract!

...is the saying.

So also here in a musical way:

There are many contrasts between the brass instrument trumpet and the keyboard instrument piano. Le Liu (piano) and Damaris Richerts (trumpet) have decided to give this contrasts musical space and explore it together in a playful way.



The combination of trumpet and piano is common at universities. However, there are almost no contemporary works with the possibilities and techniques of today for this line-up from the past 50 years. Especially, works by female composers from the past centuries in this area are not known. That is why the Vienna-based ensemble has been searching through the existing literature and works with composers like Hannes Kerschbaumer, Mathias J. Schmidhammer, Yuchun Huang and others to create new sounds for piano and trumpet. *le2dam* focuses on the unknown works and new pieces for piano and trumpet. Compositions that were not originally written for their instruments are arranged by *le2dam* themselves. In their arrangements they take special care about the acoustic results characteristic to the sound capabilities of piano and trumpet.

Le Liu and Damaris Richerts were together on stage for the first time at the Casino Austria Rising Star Award in the semifinals in 2015. In 2016, they decided to found the duo.

The two musicians started with the online survey "I hear with my little ear ..." in 2017 with audio samples and over 200 participants worldwide. *le2dam* asked in German, English and Chinese if, where, when ... the participants wanted to listen to their music. The results were presented in combination of talk and concert. In November 2017 their program [*haydn*]noise was premiered at *Strenge Kammer* at *Porgy&Bess* Vienna. In 2018 they crowdfunded their Debut CD *le2dam#01*. Significant financial support came from the Bank Austria 2018 art prize. The Archive of Women in Music International Research Center in Frankfurt/Main helped with research. A release concert followed in autumn 2018. The duo was part of the musik aktuell program of Musikfabrik in Lower Austria 2019.

Both of the musicians studied at MDW – University for music and performing arts Vienna. Le Liu studied in the instrumental program at Shanghai Conservatory of Music with Prof. Siyi Wu and Prof. Shuang Xiao, Joseph Haydn Konservatorium Eisenstadt with Prof. Ralph Heiber and majored with Prof. Roland Keller at MDW in 2012. She continued Postgradual with Roland Keller. Master classes of Guillermo Gonzales and Pierre-Laurent Aimard complete her studies. She is Member of the XX. Century Ensemble, piano accompanist at MDW, won various competitions and toured solo in France, Spain and China. Damaris Richerts studied in Trossingen (DE) and majored with Prof. Martin Mühlfellner in the instrumental program at MDW with main emphasis on Contemporary Music and Management in 2017. She plays the natural trumpet as well. She performs together with organ with both, natural and modern trumpet. Currently, she is working as a freelance musician. She is Member of the Ensemble Studio Dan and the Webern Kammerphilharmonie.