

OX&ÖL – a multidimensional collective

Since 2010, the director Philip Bartels and the pianist Simone Keller have been working together continuously, and since 2014, they have jointly led the collective ox&öl (named after a poem by Ernst Jandl), which organizes and conducts projects in the experimental music theater field where diversity and inclusion are an integral part of the artistic practice.

ox&öl collaborates with a variety of communities, including individuals with special needs, youth detention centers, asylum centers, and nursing homes.

In 2014, ox&öl founded the Kukuruz Quartet which has been seen and heard in the music theater piece "piano forte" by Ruedi Häusermann at the Schauspielhaus Zurich or in the production "24 Bilder pro Sekunde" by Boris Nikitin at the Wiener Festwochen, Théâtre Vidy, and Kaserne Basel. The quartet also regularly performs in concerts, for example, at documenta 14 at the Athens Megaron or the Biennial of Contemporary Arts in Lisbon, but also at self-organized guerilla-like events in bars, banks, breweries, hospitals, and prisons, schools, and clubs, cowsheds, and artillery fortifications.

The recording "piano interpretations" won the "Albums of the Year" selection by The New York City Jazz Record in 2018 and was included in the lists of "Best Albums of the Year" by the Boston Globe and Chicago Reader.

In 2020, ox&öl organized the highly acclaimed festival "Breaking Boundaries" at the Zurich Schiffbau, which presented a diverse range of music theater and concerts in the Club Moods and the large Schiffbau Hall, inspired by the concept of "Deep Listening" by the great American composer Pauline Oliveros.

ox&öl was awarded the "Anerkennungspreis" by the Cultural Office of the Canton of Zurich in the area of cultural participation and was nominated for the "Junge Ohren Preis" in Frankfurt am Main due to its "pioneering educational work."

ox&öl collaborates with many international composers and artists in long-standing partnerships. showcases its projects within a cross-cultural context, such as the Música Estranha Festival in São Paulo, Columbia University in New York, Stanford University in California or «Call A Friend»-Project in Tbilisi/Georgia