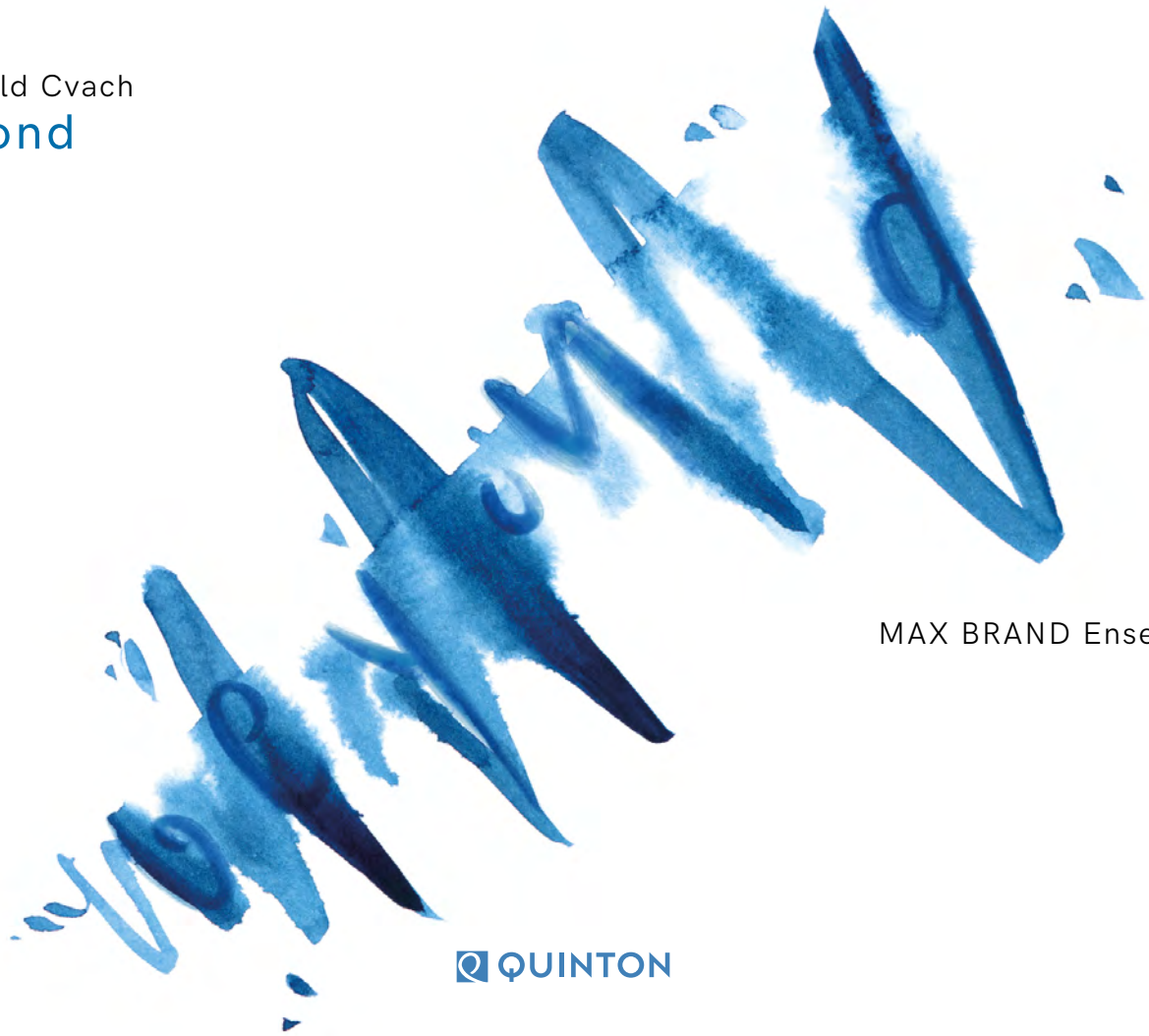


Berthold Cvach
beyond



MAX BRAND Ensemble



The discord between order and disorder is preprogrammed – because it's a part of the composer's soul. The opposite of order is twofold – one the one hand, active chaos with all those involved – and on the other hand a disintegration of order, structure, harmonies and cohesion. But something new usually emerges from disorder. All that's required is the patience to wait for it ("Tempora").

Songs are featured here for the first time alongside instrumental pieces: "Abend" with voice and flute, "Du und ich" with voice and cello, and "...bevor ich in die Nacht versinke", an octet. The lyrics are partially written by composer Berthold Cvach, seeking to further strengthen his creative capabilities which are already evident in the music.

A wide base is covered between the opening track Beyond Jazz and the closing track Further Beyond. Both of these tutti pieces act as brackets which serve to highlight a compositional progression. The Flötilie quartet reaches the furthest into the realm of new music. With Tempora, meanwhile, a proximity to jazz is at least detectable at the start. The songs' themes range from evening romance and relationships to thoughts about personally succumbing to aging. The composer's contemporary capabilities are perceptible throughout. Although no tonal harmonic centres can be established, the pieces never lose their listenability.



Berthold Cvach
Vienna, September 2025



...bevor ich in die Nacht versinke

(Berthold Cvach, *1948)

Bevor ich in die Nacht versinke, möcht' ich mich gern als Sieger kür'n.
Wenn ich den letzten Becher trinke, möcht' einmal noch das Leben spür'n.
Trotzig halt' den Kopf ich grade, wenn er auch immer schwerer wird.
Es ist mir auch gewiss nicht schade, wenn die letzte Chance stirbt.
Vorwärts denk ich, rückwärts geh ich, Richtung ist mir schon bestimmt.
Das Ende lässt sich nicht vermeiden, wenn man sich auch noch so trimmt.
Es könnt' doch sein, dass es dämmert, und ich bemerk' es nicht einmal.
Auch wenn es an der Türe hämmert, mach ich nicht auf ...denn es war einmal.
Ich heb das Glas, bevor ich trinke und treff' die Menschen, die ich mag.
Genieße dann den hellen Tagbevor ich in die Nacht versinke.

...before I vanish into the night

(Berthold Cvach, *1948)

*Before I vanish into the night, I want to elect myself as champion.
When I drink my last cup, I want to feel life once again.
I hold my head high stubbornly, though it gets more and more heavy.
And when the last chance dies, I won't think what a pity.
I think forwards, going backwards, the direction pre-decided.
There's no avoiding the end, however you wish to rose-tint it.
It may be that the dawn breaks and I won't even know,
If there's a hammering at the door, I won't open it ...for it was long ago.
I raise my glass before I drink and meet up with people I like,
and enjoy the bright day... before I vanish into the night.*



Du und Ich

(Berthold Cvach, *1948)

Du gehst mit mir
Du bleibst bei mir
Ja, bei mir
Du bist mein mit mir allein
Du mein, mit mir allein
Du mit mir und ich mit Dir
Nur wir beide sind zu Zwei'n
Nur wir, nur wir
Du und ich sind wir
Gehn gemeinsam ganz zweisam
Nur wir, nur wir
Möchte mit Dir gehen, mit Dir gehn
Die Richtung ist egal
Werde mich nicht drehn
Tun wir es noch mal

Abend

(Wolfgang Borchert, 1921 - 1947)

Ein Pendel schwingt.
Die Lampe blinkt.
Im feuchten Meerwind singt
verliebt ein Nachtinsekt.
Von keinem Laut erschreckt
singt auch mein Herz.

You and I

(Berthold Cvach, *1948)

You go with me
You stay with me
Yes, with me
With me alone you're mine
You alone are mine
I with you and you with me
Just you and I side by side
Just us, just us
You and I make us
Me and you together make two
Just us, just us
I want to go with you, go with you
Wherever that path leads
I won't stray from you
Let's press repeat

Evening

(Wolfgang Borchert, 1921 - 1947)

A pendulum is swinging.
The light bulb is blinking.
A lovestruck night insect sings
in the damp sea breeze.
My heart is singing too,
no sound can disturb its peace.



MAX BRAND Ensemble

Lower Austrian ensemble for new music

The MAX BRAND Ensemble considers itself a driving force for new forms of musical presence. Inspired by the visionary stance of Austrian composer Max Brand (1896-1980), who spent his life championing the expansion of musical expression through modern technology, the ensemble dedicates itself to the intersection of acoustic and electronic music, as well as to improvisatory and compositional strategy. Musicians and composers from varying spheres and genres enter into a dialogue with each other and create a field of tension from which new soundscapes emerge.

The MAX BRAND Ensemble was founded in 2012 upon the initiative of Richard Graf, borne by the support of INÖK (Composers' Association of Lower Austria) under the inspiring aegis of Friedrich Cerha, who was also an advocate for the performance of Max Brand's works.

The ensemble thus deliberately draws upon a tradition which is influenced in equal measure by artistic curiosity and a deep awareness of the history of the Austrian avant-garde. It has established itself since its foundation as a "laboratory" for innovative concert formats in which composition, improvisation and modern technologies come together. Its aspiration is clear: music should be experienced as a living and contemporary art form – approachable, experimental, open. The guitarist, composer and conductor Richard Graf leads the MAX BRAND Ensemble with a distinct artistic trademark: openness to interdisciplinary approaches, precise craftsmanship, and a never-ending curiosity in exploring new musical possibilities. Graf shifts deftly between the worlds of jazz, contemporary composition, and improvised music.



MAX BRAND Ensemble
Berthold Cvach
beyond

- 1 **Beyond Jazz** [15:23]
for Voice, Flutes, Clarinets, Tenor Saxophone,
Violin, Viola, Violoncello, Piano, Keyboard,
Electric Bass, Drum Set
(music by Berthold Cvach)
- 2 **Flötilie** [4:55]
for Flute, Violin, Viola, Violoncello
(music by Berthold Cvach)
- 3 **Abend** [5:35]
Song for Soprano and Flute
(music by Berthold Cvach,
lyrics by Wolfgang Borchert)
- 4 **Du und Ich** [3:48]
Song for Soprano and Violoncello,
(music and lyrics by Berthold Cvach)
- 5 **...bevor ich in die Nacht versinke** [7:24]
Song for Soprano, Flute, Piano, Violoncello,
Tenor Saxophone, Keyboard, Electric Bass,
Drum Set
(music and lyrics by Berthold Cvach)
- 6 **Tempora** [7:41]
for Flutes, Clarinets, Soprano Saxophone, Violin,
Viola, Violoncello, Electric Bass, Percussion
(music by Berthold Cvach)
- 7 **Further Beyond** [23:38]
for Voice, Flutes, Clarinets, Saxophone, Violin,
Viola, Violoncello, Piano, Keyboard, Electric
Bass, Drum Set
(music by Berthold Cvach)

Recorded and mixed by
Georg O. Luksch
using the Expanded Acoustic Recording process
in June 2025
Mastered by **Andreas Rathammer**
at The Q-Room, Vienna
Graphic Design by **Sandra Biskup** – sandfarbe.at

Executive Producer: **Andreas Rathammer**
🎧 **QUINTON** – the art of recording arts

© 2025 Quinton Records © 2025 Quinton Records

Printed 2025
All Rights Reserved
www.quintonrecords.com

MAX BRAND ENSEMBLE

Kaoko Amano *vocals* • Annegret Bauerle *flutes* • Mirjam Schiestl *clarinets* • Ulrike Greuter-Seibert
violin • Lena Fankhauser *viola* • Arne Kircher *violoncello* • Andrés Añazco *piano* • Johannes (Joe) Weichinger
saxophone • Markus Dutka *electric bass* • Timm Reinhardt *drum set, percussion* •
Berthold Cvach *keyboard* • Richard Graf *Conductor & Artistic Director*

Mit freundlicher Unterstützung der INÖK –
Interessengemeinschaft Niederösterreichische
KomponistInnen – www.inoek.at

