

Das Kirchlein von Tauern

WOLFGANG PUSCHNIG

Antonio Fian



 QUINTON

Rooted in Carinthian legends

Wolfgang Puschnig's short opera *"The Little Church of Tauern"*

The starting point for the libretto by Antonio Fian is an old Carinthian legend. The legend talks about the origin of the small church of St. Anton am Tauernteich in the Ossiacher Tauern mountains south of Lake Ossiach.

An idyllic boat trip of the young fisherman Jakob and his wife Magdalena on Lake Ossiach. From a distance, they are observed by a mermaid. The following night, the fisherman is out alone; he succumbs to the mermaid's wondrous song and surrenders to her. When she appears to him again some time later, the young man regrets his infidelity and pushes the mermaid back into the water.

She takes revenge! She opens the sluice gates guarded by the old water sprite and unleashes a flood upon the valley, in which the young couple also drowns. As punishment, she must henceforth work for the people and mix the mortar for the construction of a church with her tears. Only when it is finished may she return to the realm of the water world.

In their realization of the Carinthian Legend "Das Kirchlein von Tauern", composer Wolfgang Puschnig together with author Antonio Fian, are inspired by the poetry of the landscape and the storyline, with Puschnig also attesting to a „light Carinthian melancholy“ in his music.

The musical techniques employed do contrast catchy melodies in the songs with chromatically rich harmonies in the wind instruments. The overall sound creates the impression of stylized folk music rooted in tradition yet sounding entirely new. The protagonists' song-like and aria-like cantilenas are gently accompanied by the instruments so that the vocal parts are never obscured, ensuring consistent text intelligibility. In addition to the High "Austrian" German language spoken by the narrator and the main characters, the commenting chorus also includes passages in dialect, reminiscent of Carinthian folk songs.

The pigeonhole into which Wolfgang Puschnig has been placed for many years is quite remarkable, as he is considered one of Austria's outstanding jazz musicians, having come from the saxophone and achieved success in the jazz scene both at home and abroad. Much less is known about Puschnig the composer outside of this established genre.

„The Little Church of Tauern“, commissioned for the Carinthian Summer Festival 2023, has therefore garnered considerable attention, as it combines a wide variety of musical theatre elements into a contemporary form of singspiel.

The staged premiere of „The Little Church of Tauern“ took place on July 8, 2023, at the setting of the story, the Tauern Pond near Ossiach.

Christian Heindl, 2026

Das Kirchlein von Tauern

The Fisherman's wife (soprano)

Eva Maria Egarter

Mermaid (alto)

Elisabeth Wurzer

A Fisherman (tenor)

Mihael Strnisa

Waterman (Bass)

Taras Kuzmych

Narrator

Wolfram Berger

Vokalensemble Chorazon

Leitung: Michael Paumgarten

Windobona Quintett

Anna Karanitsch FLUTE • Isabella Schwarz VIENNESE OBOE

Julienne Martine Spitzer CLARINET

Klaus Hopfler VIENNESE HORN • Petra Seidl BASSOON

Mostviertler Birnbeitler Quintett

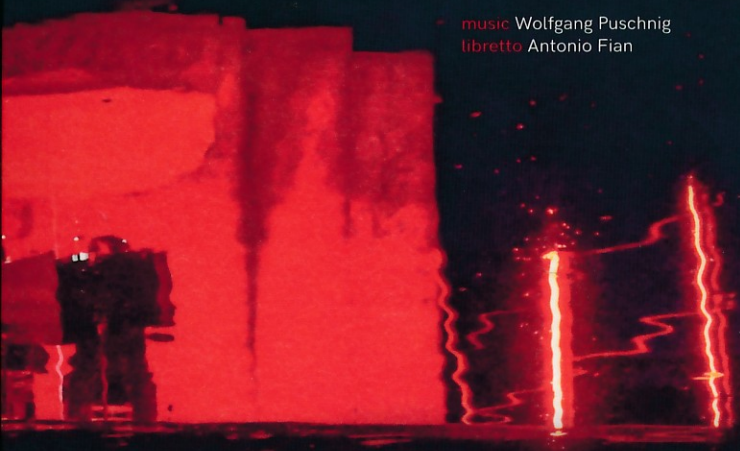
Robert Pussecker CLARINET • Stefan Jandl 1st TRUMPET

Wolfgang Klaus 2nd TRUMPET • Andreas Grünberger TENOR HORN

Herbert Klaus TUBA

music Wolfgang Puschnig

libretto Antonio Fian



Das Kirchlein von Tauern

Wolfgang Puschnig • Antonio Fian

01	Ouverture	0:31	15	7. Ablehnung, Die Nixe und der Fischer	5:24
02	In Kärnten, hoch über dem Ossiacher See	0:43	16	Wütend gab Jakob	0:49
03	1. Der Weg zum Teich	4:00	17	8. Wassermann und Nixe	3:38
04	In diesem Dorf lebte auch ein junger Fischer	0:42	18	Die Nixe aber wollte den Befehl des Wassermanns nicht dulden	0:33
05	2. Der Fischer und seine Frau	2:52	19	8B. Du alter Narr, was willst Du mit den Menschen	0:58
06	Jakob küsste seine Frau zum Abschied	0:42	20	9. Flut, Beschwörung (Chor und Nixe)	1:15
07	3. Wassermann, Abendruhe	3:23	21	10. Katastrophe	0:28
08	4A. Verführung; An jenem Tag	3:39	22	Mit feurigen Augen	1:03
09	4B. Empörung (Chor)	1:02	23	10A. Katastrophe, Kommentar (Chor)	1:21
10	Schließlich erwachten die beiden	0:41	24	11. Wassermann, Verbannung	1:45
11	5. Trennung, Hier bin ich wieder, liebste Frau	3:08	25	Und als der Sturm sich beruhigt	0:39
12	Und so blieb Jakob allein zurück	0:23	26	12A. Kirchlein (Chor)	0:53
13	6. Fischer, Klagelied	1:32	27	Zwischenmusik	0:39
14	Nacht für Nacht ruderte Jakob hinaus auf den Teich	0:48	28	Viele, viele Jahre vergingen	0:46
			29	13. Schluss (Chor) Fleissig wärst, Diandle	1:37