

# A Journey to New Early Music

The Carinthian mezzo-soprano Maria Weiss is about to produce her latest project with three world-first recordings on CD and a 200-page booklet. She plans to raise the money through crowdfunding.

With her presentation video entitled “Favola in Musica”, the mezzo-soprano Maria Weiss invites her audience on a journey to fanciful places in Carinthia: to a castle tucked away in a forest, a romantic spring morning, or back to a childhood land of fairy tales.

On this quest, our minds can indulge in the plentiful texts of an extensive booklet, while the CD contains the centrepiece of the project, early new and new early music.

“My long-standing music friends and I have dedicated much time, effort and love to this project, it is very dear to me”, explains the 36-year old, who was born in Klagenfurt and commutes between Vienna and Carinthia with her husband and young son.

Singing, her work and passion, has taken her far and wide. “Singing is an important tradition for a Carinthia family and this is why my siblings and I started singing from an early age”, the world traveller recalls. After her Matura, she embarked on a culture studies programme in Paris.

“That was a little deviation, but deviations are never in vain”, says the empathic singer, who is able to apply her scientific skills to her latest project. “I wanted to create something authentic and my first thought was doing a solo-CD. But that wasn’t enough. My inspiration led me to the idea of creating a music CD and presenting all the background information and stories relating to the music in a very special booklet”.

Starting point for the project - which is now being crowdfunded (see information) - is the Magdalensberg church. It is there that Maria Weiss together with the lutist Rosario Conte and the cellist Marco Frezzato gave a concert. The trio was delighted with the acoustics and a place for the CD recording was found.

## **New Works by Wolfgang Mitterer**

The title “Favola in Musica” has long been on the mind of the music lover. It is the subtitle to Claudio Monteverdi’s “L’Orfeo”. In this work, the old master combined old with new and thus inspired Maria Weiss to go out on a search.



Maria Weiss wandelt an besonderen Orten in Kärnten PAUL WEISSBACHER

“For the first part of the CD I chose old works from the Baroque and Renaissance.”

For the second part the musical detective went to the Austrian National Library and discovered musical works as yet unheard in our time. Three world first recordings are on the disk. “I had to transcribe the handwriting first.”

The third part was created by Lienz-born Wolfgang Mitterer who composed two new pieces inspired by the old masters.

And with all that, the journey “Favola in Musica” is ready to begin.

Cornelia Schulze | Kleine Zeitung

