

## Film composer Christoph Zirngibl nominated for European Film Music Award "The Camille Awards"

Brussels, April 7, 2021

The award-winning German film composer Christoph Zirngibl (40) has been nominated for the European Film Music Award, the "**Camille Award**" in the category "Best Orchestral Film Score" with his music for the essay film **FINIS TERRAE** (The End of the World). The award will be presented at a virtual gala event on **April 8, 2021**.

*"I am very proud and honored to have been nominated for this wonderful award together - alongside esteemed colleagues - and under the critical eye of such a distinguished jury,"* said Christoph Zirngibl.

Zirngibl completed film music studies at the University of Music and Theatre under Prof. Dr. Enjott Schneider and Prof. Andreas Weidinger in Munich. While still a student, he began writing music for short films. "I had my baptism of fire in terms of film music in 2003 with the short film "Eyes in the City". That was also Konstantin Ferstl's directorial debut. We had been close friends since our school days, had worked together on theater productions and played in bands, so it was clear to us that we wanted to work together on future film projects as well. The second collaboration with Ferstl, for the short film "Lethe" (2007), brought Zirngibl the internationally renowned "**Jerry Goldsmith Award**" in duplicate, and since then the music for almost every Ferstl project has created by Zirngibl.

Many years and more than **80 compositions** for films, documentaries, TV series and commercials later, Zirngibl and Ferstl meet again. "FINIS TERRAE is a project of my heart. It took a total of seven years to finish shooting this film and then I could start my actual composition work."

FINIS TERRAE is an essay film in search of the lost utopia and a cinematic declaration of love to the "Great Journey". With visually stunning footage from more than 20 countries, Konstantin Ferstl always keeps his gaze firmly fixed on the political and social changes of the last 100 years.

In a requiem for a century and around the world, he looks from Fidel Castro's funeral to the ecological problems and forgotten revolutions of the Lacandon rainforest and shows for the first time in exclusive footage the petrified theocracy of the Kim family in North Korea; travels through vanished countries from the Habsburg Empire to the French philosopher Alain Badiou.

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But it also describes the unique challenge of producing it: "It's a film about a journey around the world, a story that spans a century, a Bavarian grandmother, and communism. How can you write music for that?" asks Zirngibl.

Zirngibl remains true to his musical credo: *"I try to touch - not to impress" with FINIS TERRAE. "The most difficult task for me was to translate the emotional impact of a political movement into a musical narrative."* In this way, three different themes emerged for the different narrative strands.

*"I wrote a **hope theme** for the hopes and dreams of people who live or lived in communist-influenced regimes, a **landscape theme** that deals with the significance of buildings and special places in these regimes (such as the Berlin Wall), and an overarching **main theme** that holds together the melancholy frame story of the film,"* Zirngibl continues.

The result is a musical documentary in essay-like narrative style, enriched by Zirngibl with mostly orchestral, almost hymn-like melodies and recorded and performed by the Deutsches Filmorchester Babelsberg together with the Filmchor Berlin. Zirngibl himself describes the use of solo voices and choir as a particularly important element: *"In this way, I wanted to highlight the role of ordinary people and at the same time create a connecting element that describes the importance of faith within the frame story."*

The cinema documentary was also the prelude to a daring musical experiment. For even before FINIS TERRAE made its way to theaters, it made the leap to the concert stage. The premiere of the film in 2019 was also the premiere of the music. In a sold-out and acclaimed concert, FINIS TERRAE was performed live for the first time by 120 orchestral musicians, choir and soloists at the theater in Zirngibl's native Regensburg.

*"The basis of any kind of music is emotion and its authenticity makes the difference,"* Zirngibl adds to his credo. This has certainly not only persuaded the jurors of the **German Film Music Award** to nominate the film composer 2019 for the **Best Film Music** for FINIS TERRAE. Nominations were also received from the **International Film Music Critics Association (IFMCA)** and the **Jerry Goldsmith Award**.

Christoph Zirngibl has created music for numerous well-known TV productions (e.g. the "Neben der Spur" series with Ulrich Noethen) as well as for feature films such as "Jerry Cotton" (2010), "Das Haus der Krokodile" (2012), "Trans Bavaria" (2012), "Männerhort" (2014), "Kleine Ziege, Sturer Bock" (2015) or the multiple international award-winning short film "König Opa" (2017).

The year 2021 is all about animated films, as the characters in the fantasy cinema adventure of "Mia and me: The hero of Centopia," which is currently in production, can look forward to musical accompaniment by Christoph Zirngibl.

Asked about a dream project, Christoph Zirngibl's eyes begin to light up. *"That's not difficult for me to answer. As a friend and great admirer of the film composer Peter Thomas (1925-2020), I am of course looking forward to the remake of the most famous German sci-fi series "Raumpatrouille - Die phantastischen Abenteuer des Raumschiffes Orion". Who knows, maybe I can contribute to the "new Orion" setting off on a voyage of discovery into alien galaxies with my musical support."*

**FINIS TERRAE footage**

Trailer: <https://www.finisterraefilm.com>

Behind the music: <https://www.christophzirngibl.com>

Picture material, CV Christoph Zirngibl: <https://christophzirngibl.com/press>

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