

Nikolaus Knop

Nikolaus Knop is a Munich-based pianist, composer, and programmer exploring novel modes of interaction between live performers and computer systems – and between acoustic and electronic sounds. His compositional work is closely intertwined with the conception and implementation of original digital tools for composition and performance, leveraging a rigorous background in computer science. His work as a pianist – with a focus on the 20th-century canon, including the music of Bartók, Schönberg, Messiaen, and Ligeti – informs his compositional perspective.

Education

- 2023– **B.Mus Piano**, *University of Music and Theatre*, Munich
 - Spatialized audio performance of Bartok's *The Night's Music*
 - Composition seminars with Hendrik Ajax and Vladimir Tarnopolski
- 2021–2025 **B.A. Philosophy**, *LMU*, Munich
 - Tutor for the lecture on philosophy of language
 - Bachelor thesis on musical metaphors in late Wittgenstein
- 2021–2023 **B.Sc. Computer Science**, *TU*, Munich
 - Studies interrupted to focus on artistic projects
- 2018– **Studies in Music Theory and Composition**, with Thomas Taxus Beck

Selected Works

- 2026 *Fantasie und Variationen* for two violins and live electronics
- 2025 *Rondo* for clarinet, string trio, conductor, and live electronics
- 2025 *Die Radaddistenmaschine* for fixed media
- 2024 *FM96* for violin, piano, valve radio, and live electronics
- 2023 *Frost* for fixed media
- 2021 *Pareidolien* for string quartet

Refereed Conference Presentations

- May 2026 *Ponticello: An Interactive Conducting System for Mixed Music Performance*, International Computer Music Conference, Hamburg

Prizes & Scholarships

- 2021&22 Prizes at *Jugend komponiert*
- 2020 First Prize at the German national computer science competition
- 2020– Scholarship, *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*