

Alexander Xell Dafov materialized on earth in the summer of 1973 in Plovdiv (Bulgaria) and has lived in Germany since 1978. Despite his desire to become a veterinarian or zoo director, he received music lessons, first of all in recorder, piano and oboe. This led to the *Stavenhagen Prize* of the city of Greiz/Thuringia in 1985 as the best young musician and further to the admission to the music high school *Schloss Belvedere* Weimar for gifted children in 1989.

From 1990 he studied oboe with Prof. Axel Schmidt at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Weimar, where he graduated with distinction in 1995 and had been admitted to the master class. This was followed by collaborations with the pianist Sebastian Roth, solo concerts in Bulgaria and Germany, and radio recordings for the *Südwestrundfunk* and the *National Radio Sofia*.

Xell.'s interest in music is not only in classical interpretation, but in sound as language and means of expression. In 1998 he received a composition commission for the ballet performance "*Zucht*" by Robert Maytas at the Balletthaus Halle. After moving to Berlin, he worked for several years as a sound designer and producer for the TV channels SAT.1/ PRO7 before Dimiter Gotscheff engaged him for the coproduction "*Das Pulverfass*" (Deutsches Theater/ Berliner Festspiele). This was followed by several commissions at different theatres.

In 2005 he founded his theatrical progressive rock ensemble *Xell and his Schizophonic Orkestar*, with whom he released an album in 2010. The record was awarded with a prize by the Federal Ministry of Culture for its original and multicultural idea. The multi-instrumentalist Xell. works as a freelance stage composer, theatre musician and musical director at the Deutsches Theater Berlin, the Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar, Centraltheater Leipzig, Staatstheater Oldenburg, Meininger Staatstheater, Theater Dortmund, Schauspielhaus Graz (Austria), HLT Marburg and Schauspielhaus Hannover. In February 2013 he also received a guest lecturer contract at the University of the Arts in Zurich.

He works with directors such as Dimiter Gotscheff, Sandy Lopičić, Lemi Ponifasio, Brit Bartkowiak, Robert Gerloff, Peter Hailer, Gabriela Gillert, Christel Hoffmann and Sascha Hawemann.

Furthermore his theatre productions took him to Venice, Belgrade, Oslo and Liechtenstein.

In 2018 Xell. received the coveted audience award of the city of Dortmund for his "...*versatile and valuable* ..." stage music for "*Der Kirschgarten*" (A.Chekhov) directed by Sascha Hawemann.

Infos: www.xellmusic.com



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