



Honorary Awards 2023

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Berlin, 21 December 2022. It's time to celebrate! Today, the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik e.V. announces its three honorary award winners for 2023. The jurors of the PdSK e.V. award honorary prizes to artists from the music world who have set new standards in their respective spheres of activity, and who therefore represent the medium of recording as a cultural asset.

Usually these prizes are not announced until 31 January, but as one of the honorees will be celebrating his 90th birthday in the next few days, we could not resist the opportunity to join the ranks of well-wishers with the announcement.

In this spirit, the following are honored: **Heinz Sauer**, tenor saxophonist and composer from Merseburg, one of the most independent musicians in the German and European jazz world; the organist **Kevin Bowyer**, cross-border master and simultaneously servant of his instrument, who approaches all scores in great analytical detail, yet also weaves a net of enchantment with what the composers have written beyond the notes; and, last but not least, **Klaus Sander**, founder of the *supposé* publishing house, who, with his audio books (often without a book!), elevates the medium CD with all its possibilities, including booklet and cover, to a work of art. All three have achieved groundbreaking work in their field. Here are the juries' rationales:

Saxophonist of profound poetry – Honorary Award 2023 of the PdSK for Heinz Sauer (*1932)

Heinz Sauer is resolutely unflappable. His sound oscillates between rough, hoarse, earthy and breathy, emphatic and strong. The tenor saxophonist and composer from Merseburg lets his instrument rebel, shrill and screaming, then embraces the music, tender and deeply felt. Role models interest him only marginally. He has spent a lifetime learning from the sound itself, from 1960 to 1978, for example, in the bands of Albert Mangelsdorff, and as a member of the Jazz Ensemble of the Hessischer Rundfunk, but also with numerous projects of his own such as the group „Voices“, or in later years in a duo with the pianist Michael Wollny. Heinz Sauer's music is stylistically self-sufficient. It follows an expressivity of contrast, whimsically humorous and thoughtfully penetrating; it works through the balance of extremes. From this basis, Heinz Sauer has developed into one of the most independent musicians in the German and European jazz world. A master of intensity, a saxophonist of profound poetic power. (*For the annual committee: Ralf Dombrowski*)

Master and Servant of the Organ – Honorary Award 2023 of the PdSK for Kevin Bowyer (*1961)

Of course, you can also hear Kevin Bowyer with wonderful interpretations of Bach or Brahms. And enjoy how the organist analyses the pieces precisely, but always keeps an eye on what is beyond the notes. The term spirituality may sound a little hackneyed, but with Bowyer it is hard to resist. In his hands, the organ is a powerful transformer of emotions, colours, forms and transcendental experiences; Kevin Bowyer is always both master and servant of his instrument. He is also, and above all, interested in transgressing boundaries. One example is the almost unplayable work of Kaikhosru Sorabji, whose second organ symphony lasts around eight hours and makes the highest technical demands. Bowyer manages this effortlessly and only with mini breaks; how exactly he does it remains as mysterious as some of Sorabji's sound figures. A loud, resounding cheer for the most upbeat and stimulating organist of our time! *(For the annual committee: Jörn Florian Fuchs)*

Publisher of Enthusiastic Complete Works of Art – Honorary Award 2023 of the PdSK for Klaus Sander (*1968)

Leafing through the catalogue of Klaus Sander's *supposé* publishing house, one would like to order everything immediately – and above all, listen to it all! The philosopher Dieter Henrich tells his life as an intimate and highly reflective journey through spaces of memory and thought. André Wiersig talks about his pleasure and suffering as a fanatical open-water swimmer for whom no ocean is too deep or too cold. But Sander also offers us intimate stories from St. Pauli, highly complex media theory, Albert Einstein in the original sound and so much more. Each CD production (yes, Klaus Sander still believes in this medium!) is dramaturgically finely thoughtout, the booklets are beautifully designed. *supposé* productions are not mere products, but complete works of art which have accompanied enthusiasts for decades. One eagerly awaits the next masterpiece – and the one after that... *(For the Annual Committee: Jörn Florian Fuchs)*

The 2022 Annual Committee consisted of: Eleonore Büning (Jury Chamber Music II), Ralf Dombrowski (Jury Pop), Jörn Florian Fuchs (Jury Verbal Art), Julia Kaiser (Jury Chamber Music II), Tobias Rapp (Jury Club & Dance), Isabel Steppeler (Jury Electronic & Experimental), Juliane Streich (Jury Rock), Markus Thiel (Jury Lieder and Vocal Recital) and Matthias Wegner (Jury Jazz II).

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