

***Kristallianen* for 16 solo strings (1990, revised 2006)**

Kristallianen is the name of a piece that I wrote for the Vienna Chamber Orchestra in 1990. The starting point for my composition was Anton Webern's String Quartet Opus 28: fragments of this reduced text, which, at all times, focuses only on what is essential, were to be superimposed on the wildly sprawling vegetation-like music played by a 16-part string ensemble, in a way that is diametrically opposed to Webern's original. I was not satisfied with the result as I did not succeed, at the time, in providing some structure for the uncontrolled proliferation of polyphonic lines to the required extent.

16 years later, I composed a completely new piece for a different performance by the same orchestra which, apart from the title, only has a few notes in common (originating directly from Webern's quartet) with the previous work.

On 12 March, 1938 – while working on his quartet – Webern wrote the defiant yet helpless sentence: 'I am immersed in my work and may, may, not be disturbed.' The conclusion of my piece, even though intrinsically derived from the rules that govern the entire composition, can also be listened to with this sentence in mind.