

News

NEXO MAKES HISTORY IN AUSTRIAN MULTIMEDIA SHOWPIECE

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On the banks of the River Danube, in the city of Linz, "Teilung am Fluss" was presented as this year's Visualized Klangwolke ("Sound Cloud"), an annual event put on by Brucknerhaus Linz and affiliated with Ars Electronica, the city's interactive art festival. This year, the extravaganza featured 1950s military vehicles, river boats, and even an F-5 plane borrowed from the Austrian Air Force. Oh yes, and the largest number of NEXO GEO T cabinets ever used on a single production – 130+ in total.

Composed by Peter Valentin, directed by Hubert Lepka for his band Lawine Torren, the elaborate show rewrites 20th century history, imagining that, 50 years ago, Austria had not signed the state treaty that made it free and neutral. Instead, the show presents an alternate history, developing the scenario that Austria had been divided into two like Germany had been, living with a Russian communist state on one side of the river, and the Western bloc on the other.

To tell this story, more than \$1 million was spent, although the Visualisierte Klangwolke concert was free to the 90,000 people who attended. Using scores of period cars and military vehicles, boats in the Danube, and airplanes flying overhead, news reports from decades ago played on two giant screens on boats in the river.

The story was told mostly with machines. On the bank of the river close to the audience, where most of the action took place, a Soviet truck and an American military vehicle faced off and took turns pushing each other back. A neon red star lit up on the far side of the river, representing the Soviet sector of Linz. Toward the end of the show, when the country reunified, a long line of Austrian-made automobiles drove in single file along the bank of the river, over a ramp mounted on a truck and back again. More than 150 performers took part, dancing on boats and hanging out of cars, while the airplanes stole the show.

Working to a show design by Hans Horst Eckl, the main sound contractor was Austrian company Pro Show Veranstaltungstechnik GmbH, which supplemented its own inventory with subhired equipment from 5 other PA companies; Pro Musik Veranstaltungstechnik GmbH, Feedback and AMS, all from Germany, and Melpomen / SSE from France.

The audience gathered in an area known as the Donaupark between the Brucknerhaus (Concerthall), and the River Danube. Here 6x clusters of NEXO GEO T were lifted into the air by mobile cranes, all in a row, with 40 metres distance between each cluster. Two of the clusters consisted of 14x GEO T 4805s, 2x GEO T 2815s and 6x CD18s, two clusters consisted of 16x GEO T 4805s, 2x GEO T 2815s and 6x CD18s, and the final two clusters consisted of 18x GEO T 4805s, 2x GEO T 2815s and 6x CD18s.

On the other side of the River Danube, the largest cluster of all, with 24x GEO T and 8x CD18s was hoisted by a mobile crane 25 metres into the air. The six clusters covered the main audience area with stereo image, the one on the far side of the river more than 300 metres from the crowd was used as an 'effects position', reportedly impressing with its 102dB sound pressure level and frequency range.

The Klangwolke event features two further shows, the Children's Sound Cloud and the Classical Sound Cloud, both taking part in the same week.



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For the 5,000 kids in the Donaupark, Horst Eckl used just the cranes to lift two clusters of NEXO GEO T, each with 16x T4805 plus 2x T2815 cabinets, and 6x CD18s on either crane.

For the Classical Sound Cloud, the system was used in a third design, which effectively created a massive surround system on the banks of the Danube, using more than 80 NEXO cabinets. Two clusters, each using 16x GEO T 4805, 2x GEO T 2815 and 6x CD 18s suspended from mobile cranes, were used as the main system from the River Danube side. Two other clusters (10x GEO T 4805, 2x GEO T 2815 and 6x CD18s each), also suspended from mobile cranes, formed a surround system from the Brucknerhaus side. The concert of the Bruckner Orchester Linz was recorded inside the Brucknerhaus concert hall and transmitted to the PA system outside.

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