

Final Report – Fellowship 2025

Yehoshua und Margrit Lakner Stiftung

Wojciech Chalupka

Zurich, December 2025

This report summarizes my artistic activities carried out during my Fellowship 2025, which focused on engaging deeply with the music and legacy of Yehoshua Lakner. The Fellowship offered me a unique opportunity to combine my work as a performer and composer, to explore Lakner's compositional idioms, and to contribute to the dissemination of his music through new adaptations and performances.

One of the central projects of my Fellowship was the adaptation of Yehoshua Lakner's *For Horak*, originally written for bass clarinet, into a version for baritone saxophone. The aim of this adaptation was to make the work accessible to saxophonists and to introduce Lakner's music to a broader instrumental community.

The adaptation was completed early in the Fellowship year. I subsequently prepared and performed the world premiere of this version on October 16, 2025, during a saxophone class concert at the Zürcher Hochschule der Künste (ZHdK). This context proved to be particularly meaningful, as the audience consisted largely of saxophonists and students with a strong interest in contemporary music.

Following the performance, I received very positive feedback from both students and the saxophone professor, who expressed strong interest in the piece and in its new version for baritone saxophone. These reactions confirmed the relevance of the adaptation and its potential to enter the contemporary saxophone repertoire.

In addition, I completed a professional recording of *For Horak* (baritone saxophone version) in October 2025. This recording serves both as documentation of the project and as a tool for further dissemination of the work.

As part of my Fellowship activities, I also completed a transcription of Yehoshua Lakner's *Flute Sonata* for soprano saxophone. This project required close analytical engagement with the original score in order to preserve the musical character and structural clarity of the work while translating it idiomatically to the saxophone.

The transcription has been completed and is intended to be shared with saxophonists, encouraging them to explore and perform this important work. Through this transcription, I hope to further extend the reach of Lakner's music within the contemporary performance scene.

Alongside my work as a performer and arranger, I composed a new piece titled *Nocturne for viola and piano*. This composition was created during the Fellowship year and is inspired by Yehoshua Lakner's music and compositional thinking.

Throughout the year, my close study of Lakner's works allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of his compositional idioms, formal thinking, and expressive restraint. In *Nocturne*, I sought to engage with these ideas not through imitation, but by responding to them within my own musical language. The piece can thus be understood as a personal homage and a respectful dialogue with Lakner's aesthetic.

The composition was completed in collaboration with a violist, with whom I worked intensively on details of sound, articulation, and form. While a premiere could not be realized within the Fellowship year, the work is planned to be premiered in the near future, certainly in the coming year.

The Fellowship 2025 has been a deeply rewarding and formative experience for me. It allowed me to engage closely with the music of Yehoshua Lakner as a performer, arranger, and composer, and to contribute actively to the continuation and dissemination of his musical legacy.

I am sincerely grateful for the trust and support associated with this Fellowship. The projects realized during this year have had a lasting impact on my artistic development, and I am confident that their results will continue to resonate beyond the Fellowship period.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Wojciech Chalupka". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.