



## »NOperas!« 2020/2021

### Call for Applications to the Fund for Experimental Music Theatre (feXm)

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**What is feXm?** The *Fonds Experimentelles Musiktheater (Fund for Experimental Music Theatre or feXm)* was founded in 2006 as a joint initiative between the NRW KULTURsekretariat and the NRW Art Institute with the aim of developing and supporting contemporary music theatre. It is the only initiative in the German-speaking world that supports contemporary music theatre through open calls for submissions that are reviewed by a specialist jury. feXm enables cultural operators within the independent scene to realise music theatre projects at German civic theatres. In this way it aims not only to support innovative concepts within the independent scene but equally to provoke debate within state-funded theatres around contemporary forms of music theatre.

**What is »NOperas!«?** Within the framework of an initiative started in 2019 and funded by feXm under the label »NOperas!«, three theatres join forces for three seasons. Together they will realise one project per season to be shown in all three theatres. Aside from the resources provided by the theatres themselves, feXm provides funding up to the sum of 200,000 Euros for each production. The participating theatres within the current cycle are *Oper Halle*, *Oper Wuppertal* and *Theater Bremen*. This current call for applications for the 2020/2021 season marks the second round of the collaboration between these theatres. The first producing theatre for the current project is *Oper Halle*.

#### **What Projects are Likely to be Funded?**

As a funding initiative, feXm is oriented towards an advanced music theatre understanding that is not fixated on forms of contemporary opera. Concepts that have a chance of funding are those that within the field of a more performative rather than opus-related understanding of theatre interrogate the relationship of musical sound to space, language, theatre action and digital media.

**Who Can Apply?** Applications will be accepted from pan-European teams who, working together, take responsibility for combining the different layers of theatre (composition, text, direction, staging). The group must also have a production manager who is responsible for organisational matters as well as the administration and settling of the financial resources.

**Working modus.** A working modus set across several working phases enables the funding programme to stay abreast of changing production methods within the field of contemporary theatrical forms. For the chosen production team this process-oriented working method allows for the play to develop throughout rehearsals. It is open to applicants to use this freedom for their own purposes. Projects can use the phased working either to work towards one single production before transferring to the other two theatres, or the working phases can be split into separate parts

beforehand, thus enabling each rehearsal phase to be connected to an independent performance. The number, the scheduling and duration of the working phases will be decided upon by the chosen team in conjunction with the theatres; they should be in-line with the guidelines of a total of up to five production phases of two to three weeks each for the performance at each participating theatre.

**Three theatres – one project.** It is expected that the different conditions in each of the participating theatres will be factored in when designing and planning the project. It should be expressly stated that performances in the second and third theatres are not to be simply touring shows but each should be configured according to on-site conditions. This is provided for by further appropriate working periods.

**What feXm and the theatres provide.** Oper Halle will provide its available infrastructure (crew, rehearsal spaces, a defined period in the workshop, available technical equipment, etc.) as well as musicians and singers following consultation. The groups are to use the budget of up to €200,000 provided by feXm and the participating theatres to finance everything else (see below). The groups must take sole responsibility for the budget, as well as for its administration. The exact amount is to be agreed between feXm and the three participating theatres during the course of preparatory discussions.

**The role of feXm and other services provided.** Within the specific framework of “NOperas!”, feXm not only acts as a funding body but also as co-producer, working together with the theatres participating in the alliance. It provides organisational help, its own dramaturgical support and will carry out its own PR, reinforcing contemporary means of communication such as social media, the integration of digital media, as well as an interactive dialogue between the producing parties and the audience.

**Jury.** Applicants will be chosen by a jury. It will be made up of three representatives from the participating theatres, three independent judges, and one representative from feXm. The jury will reach their decision through a two-step process that includes in-depth discussions with a group of finalists. Prior to these discussions, the finalists will have the opportunity to connect with the theatre to sound out available possibilities and specifications.

#### **Call for Applications 2019.**

- Performances at the three participating theatres will take place during the 2020/2021 season. Subject to agreement, rehearsals can begin in the 2019/2020 season.
- A provisional budget for the project that stays within the financial constraints of the funding amount of up to 200,000 Euros is an essential part of the application. The following are to be financed from this sum:
  - Wages and fees for the production team (including executive production) and any additional guest artists involved
  - Set materials
  - Technical equipment that is outside what is generally available at the participating theatres
  - Travel and accommodation costs

**How to Apply.** Please submit applications via email to [noperas2019@nrw-kultur.de](mailto:noperas2019@nrw-kultur.de). Please stick to the breakdown and to the titles of the files as set out below. Your entire application material should be incorporated into the five named files. Do not add any extra files, such as audio, video, scores or play texts, to your application. If your application should require additional explanation, set these out in your email in the form of a personalised covering letter.

- **Form** (File name: **1\_formular**).  
Please fill in and scan the download PDF.
- **Short Description** (File name: **2\_kurzbeschr**).  
To be no longer than a total of 3,000 characters including blank spaces.
- **Detailed Project Description** (File name: **3\_ausf\_beschr**).  
Text to be no longer than 20,000 characters including blank spaces. There is no limit to the number of pages. Images, score extracts, etc can be integrated, if so wished.  
→ Alongside a convincing presentation of the aims of your project, this file should also contain the outline of a thought-out working modus that correlates to the rehearsal periods available (see above) to develop the play. It is envisaged that the project will be further developed for the following performances in Bremen and Wuppertal beyond simply re-casting - a further period of up to 14 days of rehearsals is available at each theatre for this purpose. Please highlight where local factors will feature with regard to this ongoing development of your project.
- **Short biographies** of the team and any participating guest artists, if relevant (File name: **4\_cv**)
- **Links** to previous work of participating artists and their websites, if available. (File name: **5\_links**)  
→ This file is to be used solely for providing links to examples of work (video or audio extracts) that might give the jury a feel for the work of the participating artists. Please specify which particular links seem essential for a more accurate insight. If people in your team have already worked together before, links to joint works are of particular interest.
- **Provisional budget** within the limits of the feXm budget (File name: **6\_kfp**)  
Details about this are set out above.  
→ The openness of the working process envisaged requires the production team and theatres to remain flexible in their approach and coordination. Consequently, the cost projection and budget sent with the application can only be the first step in a two-way orientation; this would be pinned down or revised as part of more detailed discussions during the course of the two-step jury process.

**Any queries.** All questions will be answered by the dramaturgy of feXm represented by Roland Quitt ([quitt@nrw-kultur.de](mailto:quitt@nrw-kultur.de)). Please give a telephone number where we can reach you.

**Deadlines.** The deadline for this application is 20 June 2019. The decision regarding awarding of this project will happen by autumn 2019 at the latest.