

REPORT  
on my residency at artbellwald.ch

First I want to thank the Association artbellwald.ch for the opportunity to enjoy this residency! March and April 2014 were among the most carefree months in my life that provided me with inspiration and freedom to create.

What I have to mention and is among the residency's most precious things is the view from the balcony. Extremely inspiring, especially for me, who grew up at the sea. For me it is very important to see in the distance. That's what inspired me visually. As of the aural inspiration I'm always looking for, I was stunned by the bells of Bellwald church. Those two months I've listened to many church bells across Switzerland but those of Bellwald are unique. Their sound is light, shining and bit jazzy. When all four of them play it is a real minimalistic composition. My fascination led to the decision to base my BellWAlphornKonzert on Bellwald church bells. In other words, they provided me with the main construction material. I couldn't finish this concerto while in Bellwald but it is always like this - I started my "Musica per archi" in Israel and finished in Sofia; "Gaishuvir" was started in Spain and finished in Sofia; "Pezzo assoluto" I started in the US and finished in Bellwald. The latter will be premiered next year in Basel.

Another residency aspect which is very important too, is the chance to meet people. It is not just "networking" which is both trendy and necessary now. It is about the exchange of ideas, backgrounds, traditions, in other words, everything about culture. Thanks to Mr. Salzgeber I got in contact with singer/composer Javier Hagen who declared a will to collaborate with Bulgarian composers. Thanks to Mrs. Spinner I met Francesco Walter who is an amazing festival organizer, entirely devoted to the cause of art music. I also had the chance to contact such a great and original Swiss musician as Erika Stucky who was nominated for the Swiss Music Award (jury decision to be announced in autumn). Thanks to this residency grant I refreshed my contacts with my schoolmates George Vassilev, an amazing guitar player, teaching at the Sion branch of Haute école de musique de Lausanne; and Veneziela Naydenova, who is a Neuchâtel based piano teacher, choir master and musicologist. Taking the advantage of being in Switzerland, I also attended several concerts of contemporary music. Two of them were those of Basel Symphony Orchestra just before their tour in the UK with their "More than minimal" project. All this helps new works and projects to be born a lot, and they will.

In conclusion I would like to underline that I am extremely happy with my two-month Swiss experience and will do my best to keep my Swiss creative relationships alive in favor of art and the audience.

Sofia, August 15, 2014

Milen Panayotov, Composer