

BIOGRAPHY

Studies

Born on July 26th, 1981 in Vienna, Austria, Thomas Wally studied composition and violin at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. His professors included Dietmar Schermann, Erich Urbanner and Chaya Czernowin (composition) and Josef Hell (violin). He graduated in 2008 with distinction (violin and composition). He also received the first diploma in musicology at the University of Vienna. During 2005–2006, he spent an exchange year at the Sibelius Akatemia Helsinki as a composition student of Paavo Heininen, and as a violin student of Erkki Kantola and Päivi Meller. He has attended violin master classes with Dimetrius Polizoides, Hanna Weinmeister and Volkhard Steude. In March 2007 he participated in the composers workshop „Across the Frontiers“ at the Bregenzer Festspiele.

Past Performances/Radio Broadcasts

Thomas Wally's music is regularly performed internationally by major ensembles and orchestras, including the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra (**Utopia I: Strange Loops** for trumpet and orchestra at the opening concert of Wien Modern 2021, trumpet: Selina Ott, conductor: Marin Alsop), the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra (**loop fantasy**, Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall 2015, conductor: Kazumasa Watanabe), PHACE (Aspekte Festival 2026, Konzerthaus Klagenfurt 2025, Reaktor Vienna 2025, Berio Hall at the Vienna Konzerthaus 2018, Kings Place London 2016), Klangforum Wien (Alpbach 2016), the Boulez Ensemble (Pierre Boulez Hall Berlin 2025, conductor: Michael Wendeborg), the Meitar Ensemble (Netanya, CEME Festival 2024), the Mondrian Ensemble (Wien Modern 2022, Switzerland 2015, 2019 and 2026), the ensemble risonanze erranti (Schwerer Reiter Munich 2026, Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts 2022, conductor: Peter Tilling), Phidias Trio (Tokyo 2025), Ensemble STYX (Brussels 2022), ensemble mise-en (New York 2017), Studio for New Music Ensemble (Moscow 2009 and 2010), airborne extended (Zakopane 2025), NAMES (Salzburg 2024), OENM (Künstlerhaus Salzburg 2018, Cardiff 2018), the Ensemble Zeitfluss (tage neuer musik graz 2016), Studio Dan (**Being Karl Dieter**, director: Florian Drexler, conductor: Xizi Wang; Klangspuren 2025, Musiktheatertage Wien 2025), the Hugo Wolf Quartet (Schubert Hall 2012), the ensemble LUX (Bregenzer Festspiele 2008, Wien Modern 2008, 2010, 2013, and 2024), the Zalodek Ensemble (Gustav Mahler Hall at the Vienna State Opera in 2015), the Trio EIS (Klangspuren 2009), the Ensemble Reconsil (Wien Modern 2010), the Ensemble Wiener Collage, the ensemble N, the Ensemble Kontrapunkte, the Wiener Concert-Verein, the Trio Frühstück (Gläserner Saal at the Vienna Musikverein), the Ensemble Platypus, the Webern Symphony Orchestra, and the Nouvelle Cuisine Big Band.

His works have often been broadcast on national and international radio stations such as Ö1, Radio Orange, Radio Klassik Stephansdom (AT), Kulturradio RBB, WDR3, SWR2, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, FRS (DE), SRF (CH), RTP (PT), RTVE (ES), Radio France (FR), Klara (BE), Concertzender (NL), PR2 (PL), RTS (SI), HR3 (HR), RAI Bozen (IT), KUNM, Hollow Earth Radio (US), and NHK (JP).

Recordings

Several CD recordings document Thomas Wally's work. In 2026, **lup fränzi III**, recorded by airborne extended, will be released on the Austrian label col legno. Also in 2026, col legno plans to release a portrait album with compositions for ensemble. A new version of the original piano quintet **Transfigurations** for violin, clarinet, double bass, and piano, recorded by Maxim Brilinsky, Stefan Neubauer, Bartosz Sikorski, and Johannes Piirto, was released on CD by Hänssler Classic in 2023. In 2021, the Japanese label ALM Records released the CD „Yoru no Kotoba“, featuring the composition **Cinq regards sur Noh** (2019) for Noh singing and violoncello, sung and recorded by Ryoko Aoki and Eric-Maria Couturier. In June 2020, col legno released a portrait CD recorded by the Swiss Mondrian Ensemble at the Radiokulturhaus Wien; a large number of positive reviews and articles about it appeared in national and international media (radio, magazines, blogs). In 2015, **Hommash. Caprice (V) anglois – assez vicieux** was released as part of “Exploring the World” (Ensemble Reconsil, orlando records). The piano trio **Caprice (VI) mosaïque** was recorded by Trio Frühstück for Gramola (2014).

Competitions/Awards/Scholarships

In 2004 Thomas Wally won a composition competition for string quartet compositions at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. As a result, his **4 Bagatellen** became the obligatory piece for participants in the II. International Joseph Haydn Chamber Music Competition. In 2005 he was a finalist at the Jeunesses

Musicales composition competition Bucharest with his composition **Verästelungen** for 19 solo strings. In May 2008 he won the 3rd prize in the international music+culture composers competition (USA), with his piece **impressions...en relief** for piano solo. In 2009 he received the Austrian State Scholarship for Composition and won the Helmut Sohmen Composition Competition with his violin concerto **...und ein einziger Ton weinte in einem Frühling**. In 2010 he was awarded the „Outstanding Artist Award – Music 2010“ by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture. In 2012 he again received the Austrian State Scholarship for Composition and was awarded the Förderungspreis of the City of Vienna. He was one of the finalists at the 9th international composition competition Città di Udine. Thomas Wally is one of the prizewinners at the Toru Takemitsu Composition Award 2015. His composition **loop fantasy** for orchestra was awarded the 2nd prize by the juror Kaija Saariaho after the premiere by the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra at the Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall on May 31st 2015. In 2016 he received a Theodor Körner Förderpreis for his composition **Caprice (VII) ultrajaune**. Thomas Wally is recipient of the Musik-Preis der Stadt Wien 2016 („Music Prize of the City of Vienna“). In 2018 he received the Austrian State Scholarship for Composition for the third time. His composition **cycle: 25 easy pieces** (2014-2016) was awarded the Ernst-Krenek-Preis der Stadt Wien (2020).

Violin

Thomas Wally devotes himself to the performance of contemporary music as a violinist. He has played with Klangforum Wien, PHACE, the Mondrian Ensemble, OENM, Ensemble Reconsil, Ensemble Wiener Collage and Ensemble Kontrapunkte, among others. Thomas Wally is co-founder of the ensemble LUX, with whom he has performed concerts at Impuls (Graz, Mumuth 2025), in Budapest (Downtown St. Anne Church 2024), in the Unerhörte Musik series (Berlin 2023), in Switzerland (Palass Zofingen 2024), at the Musicolomouc Festival (2016 and 2020), in Graz (ImCubus 2018 and 2022), in the Berio Hall of the Vienna Konzerthaus, in the Vienna Musikverein (Metallener Saal), at the Arnold Schönberg Center, at Wien Modern (2008, 2010, 2013 and 2024), at the Bregenzer Festspiele (2008, 2010, 2012), at the Forum Zeitgenössische Musik Leipzig (2011), at the Aspekte Festival Salzburg 2005, at the Théâtre Dunois (Paris 2005), and at the Krakow Academy of Music. In 2014/2015, the ensemble LUX performed the production “Johnny Breitwieser” at the Schauspielhaus Wien. Further concerts took ensemble LUX to Poznan, Aalen, Prague, New York, Montreal, Toronto, and Saint-Émilien. In 2026, ensemble LUX will make its debut at the Konzerthaus Klagenfurt. Since 2002, Thomas Wally has been a substitute of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and has had several temporary contracts at the Vienna State Opera.

Ö1

Since June 2021, Thomas Wally has been analysing contemporary works on the radio (Ö1, Zeit-Ton: Neue Musik auf der Couch).

Activities as a lecturer, guest lecturer and senior lecturer

In October 2012, Thomas Wally began teaching historical composition techniques as a lecturer at the Institute 1 at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. Since October 2019, he has been employed as a senior lecturer at Institute 5 (Fritz Kreisler Institute Concert Department for String Instruments, Guitar and Harp) at the Viennese University of Music.

He has held guest lectures about his own music at the HSLU (Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts), GMPU (Gustav Mahler Private University, Klagenfurt), VŠMU (Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava) and at the Palacký University in Olomouc.