



## Biography Christian Billian

studied classical guitar, musical theory, and composition at the *Musikhochschule* (Academy of Music) in Freiburg. Since 1999 he has been performing as a member of the improvisation trio *frissons*, winning first prize with them at the international competition *Für Junge Kultur* ("For young culture") in Düsseldorf.

In 2001 he was invited to the 6<sup>th</sup> *Nachwuchsforum der Gesellschaft für Neue Musik und des Ensemble Modern* (6<sup>th</sup> forum for up-and-coming artists hosted by the Society for Modern Music and the *Ensemble Modern*). In 2003 the Deutschland Radio Berlin broadcast a radio portrait of his work as a composer and improvisation musician. That same year he was commissioned for a composition by the *Staatsgalerie* (State Art Gallery) in Stuttgart.

Starting in 2004 he has been receiving a Baden-Württemberg state scholarship for a research project entitled "Teaching modern music in instrumental classes for beginners." He also carried out an improvisation project with elementary school classes from Herford/Bielefeld as part of the initiative *Künstler an Schulen* ("Artists in schools"). In 2005 he was awarded a work scholarship by the *Akademie der Künste* in Berlin, at the same time receiving a commission to compose a piece for the *Kammerensemble Neue Musik* in Berlin.

He is particularly interested in the close cooperation of composers, performers, as well as the attitudes/working methods of improvised music. His works have been performed by the *Ensemble Modern*, the *Ensemble Mosaik*, and the *Ensemble Chronophonie*.