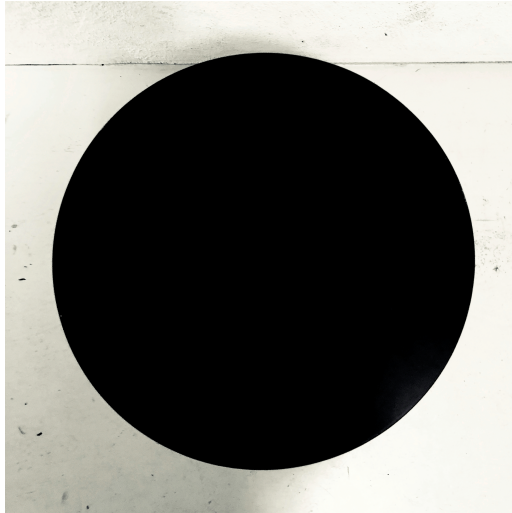




**IRASCIBLE  
MUSIC**



RIO WOLTA (CH – Zurich)

Album: Blaubart (Provincial

Dances/American Dance Festival)

Label: Sihlfeld Produktionen

Release: 05.11.2021

Web: [www.riowolta.com](http://www.riowolta.com)

EPK: [irascible.ch/releases/rio-wolta/blaubart](http://irascible.ch/releases/rio-wolta/blaubart)

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Earlier this year, Rio Wolta travelled to Russia to compose music for the renowned contemporary dance ensemble "Provincial Dances". Together with eight dancers and under the direction of celebrated choreographer Tatiana Baganova, the piece "Bluebeard" was written, premiering in June at the American Dance Festival in front of an international audience. With "Blaubart", Rio Wolta releases a shortened version of it. A beautiful adventure thus begins: just as the album is being released, the Zurich-based musician is already back in Moscow to work on the next piece.

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The piece reveals a new side of the 33-year-old's music, as it is his first predominantly instrumental music. Rio Wolta without his distinctive voice? It works beautifully! On "Blaubart", a certain harshness is newly present, sometimes evoking the likes of Archive ("Vögel") and Massive Attack ("Blaubart"), before the dynamic cleverly shifts to a gentle piano reminiscent of Yann Tiersen ("Reverso").

"Bluebeard" marks the first time Rio Wolta composed music for a dance performance. The conditions were remarkable for a debut: right in the middle of a nation celebrated for this form of art, commissioned by a Russian-American co-production and with little time available. Five weeks were all he had to write, arrange and record forty minutes of music. As he did for his album about the golden age of Swiss skiing ("Belle Epoque", 2021), Rio Wolta recorded most of the music himself, with the help of Daniel Hobi (The Legendary Lightness), who also co-wrote two tracks ("Winds" and "Blaubart").

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Choreographer Tatiana Baganova first discovered Rio Wolta with "Belle Epoque" and was fascinated by his ability to tell a story through music. The same was required for "Bluebeard", which is based on the fairy tale "La barbe bleue" by Charles Perrault. "Bluebeard" was premiered at the end of June in Ekaterinburg, Russia, in front of 800 spectators, as well as streamed live to the world as part of the American Dances Festival. It is now part of the repertoire of the internationally touring ensemble Provincial Dances and will be performed next at the New Opera in Moscow.

Practically simultaneously, Rio Wolta will also return this autumn with his sound installation and tea ceremony "Bittersweet Tea Symphony", which will be celebrating its comeback after a forced corona-break. This time, the symphony with 200 tea kettles will vibrate, rumble and steam at the Seebad Enge in Zurich (November 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) as well as at the Neubad in Lucerne (December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>). More dates will follow.

Rio Wolta continues to move from one artistic genre to another. Be it theatre, visual arts, classical songwriting, film or dance - genre boundaries don't really occupy his mind. "I believe that such boundaries exist mainly in our heads. I like the laboratory-like, experimentation-driven state of things that has prevailed since the pandemic. Many things are being rethought, also in the arts," says the 33-year-old. "Blaubart" is the fourth release by the Zurich-based composer, following "Swing For The Nation" (2015), "No More Intimate Music" (2018) and "Belle Epoque" (2021). He is now already back in Moscow to work on a new piece. It seems as if in 2022, boundaries will once again be broken. And we're excited to find out what the future has in store for Rio Wolta.

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