

## Biography – Jonathan Lucas Hauser – Long

Jonathan Lucas Hauser is a composer, pianist, and speaker from Salzburg. His work combines emotionally expressive piano music with visual media and personal stories. It is inspired by encounters across cultural boundaries and by the question of how music may become a space for mutual understanding.

Raised in a family of musicians, Hauser experienced from an early age the connecting power of music. As the son of guitarist David Hauser, he came into contact in early childhood with the breadth of music history through family music-making and a variety of band projects. At the same time, through conversations with his grandfather, a car mechanic, he discovered his enthusiasm for technology and mechanical engineering. His involvement in numerous technical projects laid the foundations for his later technical education and entrepreneurial outlook.

Thanks to intensive support, Hauser began studying with several teachers at an early age. From the age of six, he was taught by the classical piano pedagogue Sibylle Schefzig, who had studied piano performance at the Mozarteum under Hans Leygraf and had been further shaped by masterclasses with Karl-Heinz Kämmerling. Through long evenings at the piano and intensive preparation, Hauser developed a particular affinity for the Romantic piano repertoire, above all for Chopin and Beethoven, whose influence continues to shape his musical language to this day.

Through lessons with his father and with a family friend who taught music theory, Jonathan Hauser began, at the age of ten, to discover his gift for composition. His father instilled in him and his brother, from an early stage, an attitude that would leave a lasting mark on Hauser's artistic self-understanding: music exists to connect people, and before it is ever a matter of achievement, it is the expression of one's inner world. A family friend crystallised this view in a sentence that left a deep impression on Hauser: "If you can play like that, it is not about how good you are, but rather about who you are." Combined with his intensive classical piano training, this perspective opened for him a free yet profound relationship to the instrument.

Particularly during his youth, composition took on existential significance for Hauser. Amid family tragedies and personal challenges, it became for him a means of processing experience and finding inner orientation. During this period, the first impulse arose for his piano cycle *Piano of Peace*; the piece *Reminder* in particular is dedicated to that time.

His personal environment, not least his mother, was also deeply committed to social causes. In this way, Hauser came into contact from an early age with people engaged in humanitarian work. After graduating from a higher technical school, he completed his Austrian civilian service in 2015 at a refugee facility. When Central Europe was caught up, only a few weeks after the beginning of his service, in the major refugee movement of 2015, he encountered there, at first hand, traumatised people from Syria and the surrounding region. At the end of those nine months, Hauser resolved to devote a further year to humanitarian work. He spent several months travelling in Greece, eastern Turkey, Israel, Jordan, and Georgia. During this period, which was also overshadowed by political tensions and military unrest in Turkey, he experienced a wide range of formative situations that permanently deepened his focus on human dignity. Throughout, the piano remained his essential means of expression.

After returning to Austria, Hauser decided to pursue studies at the Technical University of Munich and at the University of Salzburg. Following the completion of his engineering

degree, he initially worked in mechanical engineering. During this period he also composed *Leb Wohl*, written in response to the plight of many families in the wake of the war in Ukraine. In connection with an accompanying video project with photographer Joel Carillet, Hauser travelled repeatedly to Ukraine while working in parallel as an engineer.

His experiences on the ground and the many conversations he had with soldiers and traumatised families led him into a profound process of reorientation. Back in Austria, in light of the economic downturn in the automotive industry and the increasing points of contact with defence-related projects, he became acutely aware of the extent to which his technical work was entangled in global structures of conflict. After months of inner struggle, he resolved, despite being offered a management position, to make decisive room for his musical and rhetorical work and to unite humanitarian engagement with composition.

In the spring of 2025, he founded his company and has since been working, alongside peace-related projects, towards the release of *Piano of Peace*. After an initial concert in northern Lebanon in June 2025, he found himself stranded in the Middle East as a result of the military escalation between Israel and Iran. The impressions of those days, and the subsequent conversations with various diplomatic representatives, ultimately led to a cooperation with the Austrian Foreign Ministry, which has since accompanied Hauser's work in connection with *Piano of Peace* internationally through concerts, speeches, and composition projects. Most recently, ORF's *Salzburg heute* devoted a feature to Hauser under the title "Musik als Hoffnung" ("Music as Hope"). Further international engagements are already taking shape for the coming months, including a TEDx appearance in Salzburg, concerts in Ukraine and the United States, as well as additional projects in the Middle East. In this way, an artistic path continues to unfold that increasingly places music, humanitarian experience, and public speaking within a broader international context.

In an extensive concert programme, Hauser takes his listeners on a journey through a world that is at once fractured and yet deeply interconnected, through piano works of emotional depth and dramatic force. His playing creates a distinctive atmosphere of breadth and empathy, and ultimately makes tangible the sense that life is precious and that every human being possesses inherent worth.

## **Biography – Jonathan Lucas Hauser – Short**

Jonathan Lucas Hauser is a composer, pianist, and speaker from Salzburg. His work brings together emotional piano music, visual media, and personal stories, inspired by encounters across cultural boundaries. Raised in a family of musicians, he experienced early on the unifying power of music. After studying at the Technical University of Munich, he initially worked in mechanical engineering while continuing to develop his compositional work in parallel. Shaped by this technical perspective and by international humanitarian experiences, he became increasingly aware that music can open spaces for dialogue and reconciliation. This conviction led him to reorient his professional path. In his concerts, moments of reflection emerge in which people encounter one another and music makes a sense of connection tangible.