

**COLLECTION**  
**BBVA FOUNDATION - NEOS**

**Diabelli Variations**  
**Franz Hummel – Ludwig van Beethoven**  
**Franz Hummel (\*1939)**

**FRANZ HUMMEL:**

FRANZ HUMMEL was born in 1939 and remains today one of the most renowned and original European composers. In his childhood he was discovered, supported and encouraged by Richard Strauss, Eugen Papst, Hans Knappertsbusch and Elly Ney, and subsequently became a pianist (although he had started to compose at the age of seven). He gave concerts throughout Europe and the United States, making over 60 LP recordings that encompass almost the entire classical and romantic repertoire as well as many modern works. His last major tour as a pianist was in 1973 through what was then the USSR. From this point on, he devoted himself to composition, performing only sporadically.

Hummel's operas, symphonies, ballet scores, concertos and chamber music works have been played by famous instrumentalists and orchestras. Some of his operas (there are 16 to date) have been staged throughout Europe (the opening opera for Linz 09 "European Capital of Culture" will be the seventeenth), while *Blaubart*, a parable on Sigmund Freud, has been performed around 120 times in Moscow and Paris, London and Rome. The entire score was recorded in 1985 by ZDF. In January 2006, his *Sinfonia funebre* was premiered in Kobe (Japan) to honor the victims of the terrible earthquake of 1996. Between 2006 and 2007, he wrote the 33 Transformations on a Waltz by Anton Diabelli. Franz Hummel is presently writing a work for the stage based on Friedrich Nietzsche, whose working title is *Zarathustra*.