

f r e i t a g a r t i s t s

HERBERT SCHUCH - Piano

The pianist Herbert Schuch has gained a reputation as being among the most interesting musicians of his generation with his strikingly conceived concert programmes and CD recordings. In 2013, he received the ECHO Klassik award for his recording of the piano concerto by Viktor Ullmann and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the WDR Sinfonieorchester conducted by Olari Elts. In 2014, he issued the fascinating solo CD "invocation" with works by Bach, Liszt, Messiaen, Murail and Ravel, which engages with the sound of bells.

In recent times, Herbert Schuch was dealing intensively with the music of Ludwig van Beethoven and recorded his late Bagatellen op. 119 with György Ligeti's "Musica ricercata" on a CD. Several CDs were released in the Beethoven Year 2020 that underline Herbert Schuch's broad artistic radius: The solo CD "Reflecting Beethoven", which once again explores Beethoven's influence on the 20th and 21st century, and a real rarity: the double concerto by Johann Nepomuk Hummel, together with the violinist Mirijam Contzen, the WDR Symphony Orchestra and Reinhard Goebel, released at sony classical.

Highlights of the 21/22 season include a cycle of all Beethoven piano sonatas, duo recitals with violinist Vilde Frang, concerts with pianist Gülru Ensari at the Ruhr Piano Festival and with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra in Hong Kong, and a new CD with works by Schubert and Janacek.

Herbert Schuch has worked with a number of renowned orchestras, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the NHK Symphony Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra under Valery Gergiev, the Residentie Orkest Den Haag, the RAI National Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, the Bamberg Symphony, the Dresden Philharmonic and the radio orchestras of hr, MDR, WDR, NDR Hannover, the Philharmonisches Staatsorchester Hamburg, the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie, the Danish Radio, the Orchestre National de Belgique as well as the Camerata Salzburg and the Festival Strings Lucerne. He appears regularly as guest at important venues and festivals such as the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Philharmonie Cologne, the Salzburg Festival, the Festival Radio France Occitanie, the Ruhr Piano Festival, the Rheingau Music Festival, the Kissinger Sommer, the Heidelberger Frühling and the Schumann Festival Düsseldorf. Among the conductors with whom he has enjoyed successful associations are Pierre Boulez, Andrey Boreyko, Douglas Boyd, Lawrence Foster, Gustavo Gimeno, Reinhard Goebel, Mirga Grazinyte-Tyla, Eivind Gullberg Jensen, Jakub Hrusa, Jun Märkl, Riccardo Minasi, Kent Nagano, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Jonathan Nott, Markus Poschner, Michael Sanderling, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Markus Stenz and Valery Gergiev.

Herbert Schuch was born in Timișoara, Romania, in 1979. He had his first piano lessons in his native city, before his family moved to Germany in 1988, where he has lived since. He continued his musical studies with Kurt Hantsch and then with Prof. Karl-Heinz Kämmerling at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Recently, Herbert Schuch has been especially influenced by his encounters and work with Alfred Brendel. He created an international stir when he won three major competitions in just one year: the Casagrande Competition, the London International Piano Competition and the International Beethoven Competition in Vienna. Herbert Schuch, who as a child himself played violin for 10 years, shares his passion for chamber music on the stage with musicians such as Nicolas Altstaedt, Julia Fischer, Maximilian Hornung, Sebastian Manz and Daniel Müller-Schott. His Piano Duo together with pianist Gülru Ensari has delivered convincing performances - both four-handed at one piano or on two – at many international venues and issued two critically-acclaimed CD recordings with repertoire from Mozart to Bernd Alois Zimmermann (2017 and 2018, Avi Music) In addition to his performance activities, Herbert Schuch is also involved in the organization "Rhapsody in School," founded by Lars Vogt, which promotes classical music education in schools.

Season 2021/22

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