

**Reto Bieri**  
**Clarinet**  
www.retobieri.ch



## BIOGRAPHY

His playing captivates from the very first note (...) Rarely do you hear such meaningful and intelligent performances.

Neue Musikzeitung

The Swiss clarinetist Reto Bieri is one of the most fascinating musical personalities of our time, whether as a soloist, chamber musician, curator, or, more recently, also as a conductor with his interpretations of works from a wide range of eras and styles, but also with his unconventional concert programmes off the beaten track. From the **2024/2025 season**, Reto Bieri will be artistic partner of the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Philharmonic Orchestra.

He is a gifted programmer who knows how to turn his unusual ideas, which at first glance may seem rather bizarre, into musical gold.

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

A sound poet and eccentric at the same time, Bieri crosses boundaries in search of extraordinary perceptions and special moods. As well as performing well-known works, Bieri is also a prolific interpreter of new and contemporary music, combining different worlds in his staged concerts, questioning conventional concert rituals and collaborating with polarising artists on his "detours". On the occasion of his recent appearance at the Lucerne Festival, the *Luzerner Zeitung* described Bieri's concert project *Out of the Box* as "the craziest contribution of the entire festival".

Born in Zug (Switzerland) and raised with traditional folk music, Reto Bieri initially trained as a primary school teacher. He went on to study at the music academies in Basel and Zurich, and later at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. He has been influenced by a wide range of people, including the composers György Kurtág and George Crumb, the conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt, the musicians Eberhard Feltz and Heinz Holliger, the priest Werner Hegglin, the clown Dimitri and the writer Gerhard Meier. For many years Reto Bieri has enjoyed a close artistic collaboration with the exceptional Moldavian violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja. Together with her, he regularly develops extraordinary projects, such as the comic opera *Vergeigt* for the Basel Theatre in collaboration with director Herbert Fritsch, *Phantasmagorien* for the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and the film *Ursonate* based on a poem by Kurt Schwitters. Most recently, Reto Bieri and Patricia Kopatchinskaja together with pianist Polina Leschenko released the album *Take 3* on the Alpha Classics label.

Reto Bieri is a regular guest with well-known orchestras and in major concert halls. He has



recently performed at the Auditorio Nacional de Música in Madrid, in Wigmore Hall and at the Southbank Centre in London, in the Konzerthaus Vienna, the Essen Philharmonic, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, KKL Luzern, at the Théâtre du Jeu de Paume in Aix-en-Provence, the Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest, the Franz Liszt Music Academy in Budapest, the Volkstheater Rostock, the Szczecin Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Basel Theatre.

His CD recordings, including the highly acclaimed album *quasi morendo* together with the Finnish string quartet Meta4, are released on the Munich cult label ECM.

Reto Bieri was artistic director of the DAVOS FESTIVAL – young artists in concert from 2013 to 2018. He is professor of Chamber Music at the University of Music and Theatre Munich and lecturer at ECMA (European Chamber Music Academy).

In 2023, Reto Bieri was awarded the Culture Prize of the Canton of Zug (Switzerland) in recognition of his work.

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