



Sebastian Manz – Clarinet

www.sebastianmanz.com

BIOGRAPHY 2019/2020

Sebastian Manz' stylistic and tonal range is not only reflected in his career as a soloist and chamber music partner, but also in the variety of musical forms and formats, which he attempts and develops within most different projects.

His big breakthrough comes with his sensational success at the ARD International Music Competition in Munich in September 2008, where he wins not only first prize in the Clarinet category, which had not been awarded for forty years, but also the coveted Audience Prize and other special prizes. With his partner Martin Klett at the piano, he had also won the German Music Competition just a few months before.

He has been solo clarinetist with the SWR Symphony Orchestra in Stuttgart since 2010.

In season 2019/2020 Sebastian Manz performs as a soloist with the Camerata Salzburg, the Münchener Kammerorchester, the Hofer Symphoniker, the Symphonieorchester Vorarlberg and the Sinfonieorchester Liechtenstein. On the chamber music field, he gives performances in the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Schloss Elmau, the Reitstadel Neumarkt, at the festival Kasseler Musiktage, the prestigious festival Heidelberger Frühling, the Jazzfestival Viersen, collaborating with Sebastian Studnitzky, Herbert Schuch, Sarah Christian, Julian Steckel, the wind quintet *variation5*, the Danish String Quartet and the Armida Quartett among others. As a member of "The Bower's Program" he is once again guest of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York, also playing a USA tour with other CMS members.

Time and again, Sebastian Manz demonstrates a unique talent for arranging and composing on his albums and at his concerts. His discography includes numerous awards underscoring Manz' intuition for details and overarching concepts. In August 2019 he released his most recent album *A Bernstein Story* as a collaboration with Sebastian Studnitzky, placed in between classical and jazz music. In February 2017 Sebastian Manz' recording of the complete clarinet works by Carl Maria von Weber was published and later on included in the ranking of the "German Record Critics":

"This complete recording of the Works for Clarinet by Carl Maria von Weber is captivating from beginning to end. Sebastian Manz [...] subtly explores his part, distinguishing himself as a virtuoso of his instrument. Technical brilliance, richly nuanced tone, flowing cantability and melodic beauty are delightfully entwined with a playful and creative approach. [...] A seamless recording, fresh and flawless." (For the jury: Norbert Hornig).

GRUNAU & PAULUS MUSIC MANAGEMENT GMBH

Almsstraße 32 · D 31134 Hildesheim

+49 (0)5121 7558458 · contact@grunau-paulus.com · www.grunau-paulus.com



With this album he was also awarded the ECHO Classic award in the category "Concert recording of the year" (Music of the 19th century).

Alongside his concert work, Sebastian Manz is active in the "Rhapsody in School" organization founded by Lars Vogt, which is committed to bringing classical music into schools. Furthermore, he was appointed artistic director of the festival *:alpenarte* in 2018.

Being the grandson of the Russian violinist Boris Goldstein and the son of two pianists, born in Hanover in 1986, Manz's musical roots are in his German-Russian family background. He begins singing in a boys' choir at the age of six. He first learns the piano, which he plays very well, but soon concentrates on the clarinet after listening to Benny Goodman's recording of Carl Maria von Weber's E flat major Concerto, which fascinates him and awakes a longing for the instrument. Among his most important teachers and supporters are the acclaimed clarinetists Sabine Meyer and Rainer Wehle.

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