

Christian Tetzlaff



“Mesmerising and also generous, Tetzlaff seemed to transcend the distance between performer and audience. His playing invited his listeners into a remarkable world of clarity, precision of technique, gracious execution of melody and pianos so rich with expression that one could only leave the hall wanting more.”

– Leah Swann, *The Strad*, May 2009

Equally at home in the classical and romantic repertoire as in contemporary music, Christian Tetzlaff sets standards with his interpretations of the violin concertos of Beethoven, Brahms and Tchaikovsky as well as Berg, Ligeti and Shostakovich. He is particularly well-renowned for his incomparable performances of the Bach Solo Sonatas and Partitas.

2009/10 is characterised by the renewal of ongoing partnerships with many of the world’s finest orchestras and conductors. Highlights include performances in the US with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Christoph Eschenbach, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Esa-Pekka Salonen, and a tour with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas. In Europe he will return to work with the London Philharmonic Orchestra with Eschenbach and the London Symphony Orchestra with Daniel Harding where he will perform Jörg Widmann’s Violin Concerto, having given the world premiere of the work in 2007. He tours with the Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester Berlin under Ingo Metzmacher and continues to be a regular guest soloist with orchestras such as the Berliner Philharmoniker, Orchestre de Paris, and the Tonhalle-Orchester Zurich.

He regularly performs at major festivals including those in Edinburgh and Lucerne, and at the BBC Proms, in addition to summer festivals throughout the US. He also gives recitals with chamber partners Leif Ove Andsnes, Alexander Lonquich and Lars Vogt, as well as his own Tetzlaff String Quartet.

Christian Tetzlaff has recorded for the Virgin/EMI, Hänssler, Decca, Pentatone and Arte Nova labels. His extensive discography includes the violin concertos of Dvorak, Mozart, Lalo, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven. He has also recorded Sibelius’s complete works for violin and orchestra, Bartok’s sonatas for violin and piano with Leif Ove Andsnes, and the three Brahms violin sonatas with Lars Vogt. His latest disc features Bach’s complete solo sonatas and partitas for Hänssler. Christian’s recordings have received numerous prizes and awards, including the Diapason d’Or, the Edison prize, the Midem Classical Award and the ECHO Klassik prize, together with several nominations for the Grammy Awards. In 2005 Musical America named him “Instrumentalist of the Year”.

Born in Hamburg in 1966, Christian Tetzlaff studied at the Lübeck Conservatory with Uwe-Martin Haiberg and in Cincinnati with Walter Levin. He now lives near Frankfurt.

Christian Tetzlaff plays a violin by German violinmaker Peter Greiner.

2009/10 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography