

Christoph Poppen



From the start of his conducting career, Christoph Poppen has established a reputation for his innovative programming and his commitment to contemporary music. In autumn 2007 this renowned German conductor begins his tenure as Principal Conductor of the new Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern. In August 2006 Christoph Poppen was appointed Principal Conductor of the Radio Symphony Orchestra Saarbrücken, having been given the role of overseeing and the merger of his orchestra with the Radio Orchestra Kaiserslautern. In the 2008-09 season Christoph Poppen and the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie will be guest at the Alte Oper Frankfurt, at the Philharmonie Luxembourg, the Festival Heidelberger Frühling and the Festival Rhein Vokal. A first tour led them to Switzerland in autumn 2008. The emphasis of his programmes in this season in Saarbrücken is on vocal compositions with orchestra, major violin concertos of the 20th century ((Szymanowski, Korngold, Chatschaturjan, Reimann und Prokofiev) as well as on orchestral works by french composers. After the complete recording of the Mendelssohn symphonies, Christoph Poppen and the orchestra work on a complete recording of the symphonies by Tchaikovsky.

In 1995 Christoph Poppen started his 11 year tenure as Artistic Director of the Munich Chamber Orchestra, establishing the ensemble's new profile within a short period of time. His unmistakable programmes were based on a contrast of the classical and the contemporary, along with several commissioned works. Numerous CD recordings on ECM Records emerged from this collaboration.

In addition to his position as Principal Conductor, Christoph Poppen is also a frequent guest conductor. In Germany he has appeared with orchestras such as the Bamberg Symphony, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Stuttgart Philharmonic and Staatskapelle Dresden. Elsewhere in Europe he has visited the Amsterdam Sinfonietta, the Turku Philharmonic and the Camerata Salzburg, while outside of Europe he has worked with the Singapore Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Orquestra Sinfonica do Estado de Sao Paulo, and Indianapolis Symphony, amongst others. A productive collaboration with the Tirolean Landestheater Innsbruck lead to many successful opera projects, such as Mozart's *Zauberflöte* and a concert performance of Rossini's *Othello* along with a new production of Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*. Summer 2006 saw him conduct the Munich Chamber Orchestra in concertante performances of Mozart's *La Betulia Liberata* at the Salzburg Festival. The season 2008/09 sees him with the WDR Symphony Orchestra, the Danish National Symphony Kopenhagen, the Torino Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale, the Frankfurter Museumsorchester, Hamburger Symphoniker and Amsterdam Sinfonietta just to mention a few.

Christoph Poppen's extensive discography covers works by composers such as Tigran Mansurian, Sofia Gubaidulina, Karl Amadeus Hartmann, Giacinto Scelsi as well as Mozart and Schubert; several recordings have been released on ECM Records. With the Munich Chamber Orchestra he has also recorded all of Haydn's violin concertos with Isabelle Faust and own arrangement of Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* for string orchestra. Beginning of 2008 the complete Mendelssohn symphonies have been published together with the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern on Oehms Classics. Another recording of Poppen and the orchestra with works by Frank Martin was published in spring 2008 on ECM Records.

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As a violinist Christoph Poppen has been the laureate of many national and international violin competitions. In 1978 he was co-founder of the Cherubini Quartett (First Violin), which won the Grand Prix at the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France, in 1981. This resulted in concerts at important international musical venues as well as in numerous CD recordings. Christoph Poppen's project *Morimur* (Bach's D Minor Partita with the Hilliard Ensemble) was highly successful as a concert version as well as a CD recording.

Christoph Poppen was appointed professor for Violin and Chamber Music at the Hochschule für Musik in Detmold and later at the Hanns Eisler Hochschule für Musik in Berlin, where he was President from 1996 through 2000. From 2001 through 2005 Christoph Poppen was Artistic Director of the renowned ARD International Music Competition.

2008/09 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography.