

## 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 Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Saarbrücken, having been given the role of overseeing and the merger of his orchestra with the Rundfunkorchester Kaiserslautern. In the season 2009-10 Christoph Poppen and the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie will perform several concerts in Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Mainz and Munich, among others. In October 2009 they will tour China with performances in Beijing, Suzhou, Shanghai and Macau. The focus of Poppen's programmes in the season

2009/10 in Saarbrücken will be orchestra works by Anton Webern as well as several world premieres by Austrian composer Thomas Larcher, among others.

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 Bamberger Symphoniker, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Sinfonieorchester des Westdeutschen Rundfunks, Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra and Staatskapelle Dresden. Elsewhere in Europe he has visited the Amsterdam Sinfonietta, the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra and the Camerata Salzburg, while outside of Europe he has worked with the Singapore, Detroit and Indianapolis Symphony Orchestras as well as the Orquestra Sinfonica do Estado de Sao Paulo, 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 Münchener Kammerorchester in concertante performances of Mozart's *La Betulia Liberata* at the Salzburg Festival. In the season 2009/10 he will conduct the musikFabrik with the new scenic production *Sing für mich, Tod* about composer Claude Vivier at the Ruhrtriennale as well as the premiere of Strauss' *Arabella* at the Tiroler Landestheater in Innsbruck. He will also guest conduct with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Berner Sinfonieorchester, Het Brabants Orkest, Staatskapelle Weimar, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and Essen Philharmonic.

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. At the moment Christoph Poppen and the Deutsche Radio

Philharmonie are recording the complete Tchaikovsky symphonies on Oehms Classics. In February 2009 the first CD of this cycle with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 and his Overture 1812 was released.

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.

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