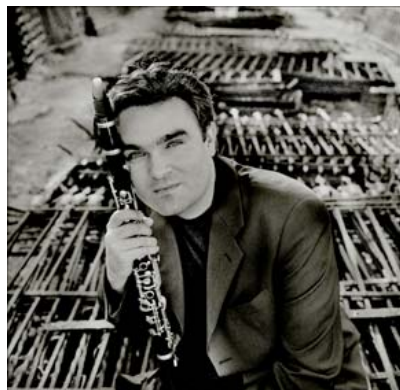


## Jörg Widmann



Jörg Widmann studied clarinet with Gerd Starke at Munich Hochschule für Musik. His great passion being chamber music, he regularly makes music with partners such as Tabea Zimmermann, Heinz Holliger, András Schiff, Kim Kashkashian, and Hélène Grimaud. As a soloist, he guest-performs with major orchestras at home and abroad, and has given concerts with conductors such as Christoph von Dohnányi, Sylvain Cambreling and Kent Nagano.

Several clarinet concertos have been dedicated to and premiered by him. In 1999 he performed *Musik für Klarinette und Orchester* by Wolfgang Rihm as part of 'musica viva', and in 2006 *Cantus* by Aribert Reimann with the WDR Symphony

Orchestra. Since 2001 Widmann has been holding a professorship for clarinet at the Freiburg Hochschule für Musik and since 2009 also for composition.

At the age of eleven Jörg Widmann began to take composition lessons with Kay Westermann and later continued his studies with Hans Werner Henze, Wilfried Hiller and Wolfgang Rihm. For his compositional achievements he received the Belmont Award for Contemporary Music of the Forberg Schneider Foundation in 1999, the Schneider-Schott Music Award and Paul Hindemith Prize in 2002. In 2003 he was awarded one of the encouragement awards of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation and the honorary award of the Munich Opera Festival. His opera *Das Gesicht im Spiegel* was selected by the jury of experts of the *Opernwelt* magazine as the most important world premiere of the season 2003/04. In 2004 Widmann received the Arnold Schoenberg Prize by the Vienna Arnold Schoenberg Centre and the Deutsches Sinfonie Orchester Berlin. In 2004 and 2005 Jörg Widmann was Composer in Residence at various festivals and orchestras, amongst them the DSO Berlin, NDR 'das neue werk' and the Salzburg Festival. In 2006 Widmann received the SWR Symphony Orchestra Baden-Baden/Freiburg's composition award as well as the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra Academy's Claudio Abbado Composition Award.

Jörg Widmann has composed a trilogy for large orchestra based on the principle of transferring vocal forms on to orchestral writing. The trilogy consists of *Lied* (premiered in 2003 and recorded by Bamberg Symphony Orchestra under Jonathan Nott), *Chor* (premiered in 2004 by the Deutsches Sinfonie Orchester Berlin and Kent Nagano) and *Messe* premiered by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Christian Thielemann in June 2005. In 2007 Pierre Boulez and the Vienna Philharmonic premiered Widmann's new orchestral work *Armonica* as well as Christian Tetzlaff and the Young German Philharmonic under the direction of Manfred Honeck premiered the *Violin Concerto*. 2008 included the new orchestral work *Antiphon* in February with Paavo Järvi conducting the hr-Sinfonieorchester and the piano cycle *Eleven Humoresques*, premiered in May 2008 which has been commissioned by the Carnegie Hall New York for Yefim Bronfman. At the beginning of the 2008/09 season the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under Mariss Jansons presented his new orchestral work *Con brio*.

Orchestral engagements of the current season include visits to the SWR Symphony Orchestra Freiburg, the Orchestre National de Lyon, Kammerorchester Basel and Saarbrücken Radio Symphony Orchestra. In summer 2009 he will be Artist in Residence both at the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival and the Lucerne Festival. Furthermore he is invited to play at the Schwetzingen Festspiele in May 2009.

In addition to his orchestral engagements Jörg Widmann works on a number of chamber music projects, with – amongst others – pianist Yefim Bronfman at the Lucerne Festival; violinist Carolin Widmann, cellist Christian Poltera and pianist Momo Kodama at the Festival d'Automne in Paris; the Artemis Quartet at Wigmore Hall; and soprano Mojca Erdmann.