Stephen Waarts

Violin

“I’m convinced he is the real deal.”

(Gramophone, February 2019)

Stephen Waarts’ innate and individual musical voice has established him as a firm favourite with audiences. With a voracious appetite for repertoire, he has already performed more than 30 standard violin concertos, as well as rarely performed works, and he is a passionate chamber musician.

During the 2019/20 season Waarts makes his recital debut at the Wigmore Hall, London, with pianist Gabriele Carcano and works by Fauré, Szymanowski and Bartók. He returns to the Auditorium du Louvre in Paris with a solo recital featuring Paganini, Bach and Ysaÿe, and further recitals and chamber concerts include Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw and Carnegie Hall in New York.

He works under Sir András Schiff twice this season: performing Mozart’s Sinfonia Concertante with Timothy Ridout and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe as part of the Kronberg Academy Festival; and in Beethoven’s Violin Concerto, with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. He also debuts with the Staatskapelle Weimar in Munich’s Philharmonie am Gasteig, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Shi-Yeon Sung, Orpheum Supporters Orchestra at the Zurich Tonhalle Maag under Howard Griffiths, and Deutsche Streicherphilharmonie in the Dresden Philharmonie.

In 2019 he was awarded the International Classical Music Awards Orchestra Award by the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra and returns this season for a recital at the KKL Lucerne. Having won the Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern’s soloists award in 2017 he returned there in both 2018 and 2019. He has also recently made his debuts at the Aspen Music Festival and Mostly Mozart Festival, New York, as well as with the Orchestre National de Belgique, Szczecin Philharmonic, Slovak Philharmonic and Cape Town Philharmonic.

Waarts released his debut recital album for Rubicon Classics in November 2018, with pianist Gabriele Carcano, featuring works by Schumann and Bartók. He has also recently collaborated on a Hindemith recording project with Christoph Eschenbach for Ondine Classics.

His prize-winning success at the 2015 Queen Elisabeth Competition – including securing the majority vote of the television audience – boosted international attention. In March 2017 he was awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant. In 2015, he was awarded the Mozart Gesellschaft Dortmund scholarship following his appearance at the Krzyżowa-Music Festival.

Waarts is currently at the Kronberg Academy, studying under Mihaela Martin. He graduated with a Bachelor’s degree from the Curtis Institute, Philadelphia, where he studied under Aaron Rosand. Prior to this he worked with Itzhak Perlman at the Perlman Music Program and Li Lin at the San Francisco Conservatory. In 2013 he won the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York, aged just 17. He was also prize-winner at the 2013 Montreal International Competition and won first prize at the 2014 Menuhin Competition. Stephen is part of the Development Programme of the Orpheum Foundation for the Advancement of Young Soloists.