Martin Grubinger

Possibly the best multi-percussionist in the world, Martin Grubinger possesses an unusually broad repertoire ranging from solo works and chamber music with partners, including his own Percussive Planet Ensemble, to percussion concertos. His technical perfection, enthusiasm and musical versatility make his performances real ‘must-see’ events and brought the percussion from the back of the orchestra to the middle of the stage.

As the current season’s Artist in Residence at Wiener Symphoniker, Martin Grubinger appears on a number of occasions with the orchestra, including concerts at Wiener Konzerthaus and Wiener Musikverein. In addition, he returns to work with long-standing partner orchestras such as hr-Sinfonieorchester and Gürzenich-Orchester Köln, and he will go on tour with the Belgian National Orchestra and Bruckner Orchestra Linz. New collaborations include engagements with St. Louis Symphony and Real Filharmonía de Galicia.

Amongst the growing number of works written for Grubinger are Avner Dorman’s *Frozen in Time* (2007) and Friedrich Cerha’s *Concerto* (2008), performed and recorded with Wiener Philharmoniker and conducted by Peter Eötvös on Kairos, as well as Tan Dun’s concerto, *Tears of Nature* (2012). In 2014 Eötvös’ *Speaking Drums* received its world premiere with Mahler Chamber Orchestra conducted by the composer. In the 2022/23 season, a new percussion concerto dedicated to Martin Grubinger by Daníel Bjarnason will be premiered with Orchestra Philharmonie Luxembourg and later performed with Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Staatskapelle Berlin, Noord Nederlands Orkest, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony and Kristiansand Symfoniorkester. Grubinger’s renowned percussion projects such as ‘The Percussive Planet’, ‘Century of Percussion’ and ‘Caribbean Showdown’ are further examples of his versatility.

In 2016/17, Grubinger was Artist in Residence at Elbphilharmonie. Other residencies led him to Camerata Salzburg and Kölner Philharmonie, Münchner Philharmoniker, Wiener Konzerthaus and Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich. He has appeared with orchestras including NHK Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, Taiwan, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, Münchner and Dresdner Philharmoniker, Wiener Philharmoniker, Bamberger Symphoniker and BBC Philharmonic. He guests regularly with leading orchestras in the United States, amongst them Los Angeles Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic.

Regular festival appearances include the Rheingau Music Festival, Heidelberger Spring Festival, Bregenzer Festspiele, Beethovenfest Bonn, Lucerne Festival and Salzburg Festival, at Baden-Baden Festspielhaus, the Brass and Percussion Festival in Tokyo’s Suntory Hall, and the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago. In 2013 he was Artiste Étoile at Lucerne Festival.

Winner of multiple prizes, Martin Grubinger is recipient of the Bernstein Award by the Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival and the prestigious Jeunesses Musicales’ Würth Prize. Grubinger’s first CD, *Drums ‘n’ Chant,* was followed by a live DVD recording of ‘The Percussive Planet’ - both for Deutsche Grammophon. He has since recorded a number of projects for various labels.

Born in Salzburg, Martin Grubinger studied at the Bruckner Conservatory in Linz and at the Salzburg Mozarteum. He quickly garnered attention through appearances at several international competitions, including the second World Marimbaphone Competition in Okaya, Japan, and at the EBU Competition in Norway. Martin Grubinger holds teaching positions at Zurich University of the Arts and as Professor for Multipercussion at the University of Music and Dramatic Arts Mozarteum Salzburg.

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