Christian Tetzlaff
Violin

Christian Tetzlaff has been one of the most sought-after violinists and exciting musicians on the classical music scene for many years. With an extensive repertoire and equally at home in Classical, Romantic and contemporary repertoire, he sets new standards with his interpretations of the concerti of Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Berg and Ligeti, and is renowned for his innovative chamber music projects and performances of Bach solo repertoire. He frequently turns his attention to forgotten masterpieces, such as Joseph Joachim’s Violin Concerto which he successfully championed, while attempting to bring new works to the mainstream repertoire such as Jörg Widmann’s Violin Concerto, which he premiered in 2013.

Tetzlaff follows the musical manuscript as closely as possible, foregoing standard performance tradition and without indulging in usual technical short-cuts on the instrument, which often allows a renewed clarity and richness to develop in works that are already well-known to audiences.

Christian Tetzlaff is regularly invited as Artist in Residence to present his musical views over a longer period, including Berliner Philharmoniker, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra and Dresdner Philharmoniker. In the 2021/22 season, he was given this honour at London's Wigmore Hall and in 2022/23 he is "Portrait Artist" of London Symphony Orchestra.

Further highlights in the 2022/23 season include tours with Hamburg Philharmonic, London Philharmonic Orchestra and Bundesjugendorchester, as well as a South American tour with Die Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen. Christian Tetzlaff is also regularly invited to perform with Japanese and US orchestras, and will be joining New Japan Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and New York Philharmonic again this season.

His recordings have received numerous awards such as the Gramophone Classical Music Award in 2018 for his album of Bartók’s Concerti Nos.1 and 2 with Hannu Lintu and Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. His most recent recording for the label Ondine of Beethoven and Sibelius violin concerti with Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and Robin Ticciati, released in the autumn 2019, immediately received a mention as Album of the Month in Gramophone Magazine. Other awards include a Diapason d’Or and the Jahrespreis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik in 2018, Midem Classical in 2017, the Edison, and several Grammy nominations. His discography includes violin concerti by Dvořák, Mozart, Lalo, Sibelius, Tchaikovsky, Beethoven and Jörg Widmann; Mark-Anthony Turnage’s Mambo Blues and Tarantella; violin sonatas by Mozart, Bartók, Schumann and Brahms; and of special significance, Bach’s complete solo Sonatas and Partitas, which he recorded three times over the years, the latest having been released in September 2017.

Chamber music is as much an important facet of his musical life as his work as a soloist, both with and without the orchestra. Christian founded the Tetzlaff Quartett in 1994, which received the Diapason d’Or in 2015, while the trio with his sister Tanja Tetzlaff and pianist Lars Vogt was nominated for a Grammy award.

Born in Hamburg in 1966, Christian Tetzlaff studied at the Lübeck Conservatory with Uwe-Martin Haiberg and in Cincinnati with Walter Levin.

He plays a violin by German maker Peter Greiner and teaches regularly at the Kronberg Academy, near Frankfurt.