Xavier De Maistre
Harpist

“Xavier de Maistre is a virtuoso of the highest order, profoundly musical and capable of realising a remarkable range of nuance.” *(Gramophone)*

Xavier de Maistre is one of today’s leading harpists and a profoundly creative musician. As a fierce champion of his instrument, he has broadened the harp repertoire, commissioning new work from composers. He also creates transcriptions of important instrumental repertoire.

Xavier starts his 2023/24 season by opening the Atlanta Symphony’s concert season under Nathalie Stutzmann. From January 2024, Xavier de Maistre gives the premieres of Peter Eötvös’ first harp concerto, specially created for him, with co-commissioners Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Fundação Casa da Música, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Radio-Symphonieorchester Wien. His *Serenata Latina* duo with Rolando Villazon leads him to such prestigious venues and festivals as Philharmonie de Paris, NY’s Lincoln center, Mozarteum Salzburg and Yerevan Festival. Other season’s highlights also include major invitations to Enescu Festival, Singapore Symphony Orchestra with Pierre Bleuse, his Sydney Symphony Orchestra debut under Dalia Stasevska, as well as Lucerne Symphony Orchestra and Bertrand de Billy.

He is regularly invited by first-class orchestras across the globe: Chicago, Montréal, City of Birmingham, Swedish and Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestras; Los Angeles, London, St Petersburg, Oslo and China Philharmonic Orchestras; Orchestre de Paris, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg, Orquestra Sinfônica do Estado de São Paulo; working with conductors including Sir André Previn, Sir Simon Rattle, Riccardo Muti, Daniele Gatti, Philippe Jordan, Bertrand de Billy, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Daniel Harding, Susanna Mälkki and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla.

As a recital soloist, he has been a guest at many top festivals, including Rheingau, Salzburger Festspielen, Wiener Festwochen, Verbier, Budapest Spring, Würzburg Mozartfest and Mostly Mozart in New York. He is passionate about chamber music and regularly puts together original recital projects, including numerous collaborations with highly versatile artists like tenor Rolando Villazón, flamenco and castanet legend Lucero Tena, Diana Damrau, Arabella Steinbacher, Daniel Müller-Schott, Baiba Skride, Antoine Tamestit, Mojca Erdmann or Magali Mosnier.

Xavier has been an exclusive Sony Music artist since 2008, when he recorded his first album, *Nuit d’Etoiles*, dedicated to Debussy. Further releases include *Hommage à Haydn* (2009), *Aranjuez* (2010), *Notte Veneziana* (2012), *Moldau* (2015), and *La Harpe Reine* (2016) with Les Arts Florissants and William Christie. His album *Christmas Harp* (October 2021) features paraphrases and fantasies of famous Christmas carols. He records a highly-acclaimed *Serenata Latina* album with Rolando Villazon (Deutsche Gramophone) in 2020. In autumn 2022, his latest CD dedicated to Russian music was released, featuring Reinhold Glière's famous harp concerto and Alexander Mosolov's forgotten concerto, accompanied by WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln under the baton of Nathalie Stutzmann.

Born in Toulon, Xavier studied the harp with Vassilia Briano at his local conservatoire, before perfecting his technique with Catherine Michel and Jacqueline Borot in Paris. He also studied in Sciences-Po Paris and then at the London School of Economics. In 1998 he was awarded First Prize (and two interpretation prizes) at the prestigious USA International Harp Competition (Bloomington) and became the first French musician to be admitted at the Wiener Philharmoniker that same year.

He has taught at Musikhochschule in Hamburg since 2001.

He plays on a Lyon & Healy instrument.