

Sebastian Manz

Clarinet

www.sebastianmanz.com



BIOGRAPHY

Sebastian Manz, international soloist, chamber musician and Principal Clarinetist of the SWR Symphony Orchestra, had his big breakthrough in 2008 when he won first prize in the clarinet category of the ARD International Music Competition in Munich. During the preceding 40 years the first prize had not been awarded in this section; Sebastian Manz was also awarded the coveted audience prize and further special prizes. Previously he had also won the German Music Competition together with his piano partner Martin Klett. Sebastian subsequently received the "Echo Klassik" prize three times for outstanding CD recordings, as well as the sought-after Emerging Artist Award in New York. For his album *A Bernstein Story*, which was released in 2019, he received the "Opus Klassik" award in the category "Classic without Borders" in October 2020.

In addition to solo engagements throughout Europe (including with the Robert-Schumann-Philharmonie and the Sinfonierchester Liechtenstein), he will be a guest of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in the USA several times in the **2024/2025 season**. Some of his arrangements will also be performed as part of these guest appearances. With his chamber music partners Franziska Hölscher, Felix Klieser, Lionel Martin, Dag Jensen, Wen Xiao Zheng, Haesue Lee, Andrei Ioniță and Dominik Wagner, he will be performing with the Beethoven Septet at numerous venues. With ensembles such as the Amaryllis Quartet and his long-standing musical partners Danae Dörken, Herbert Schuch, Maximilian Hornung, Martin Klett and Sebastian Studnitzky, Sebastian Manz is a welcome guest at renowned concert venues. He will perform at the TivoliVredenburger, Bergson Kunstkraftwerk, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and the Bremer Sendesaal, as well as at various festivals such as Music@Menlo in California and the Klosterkonzerte Maulbronn.

Sebastian Manz' enthusiasm for arranging and composing is reflected in his concert programmes and in his discography, which has won numerous awards. His CD *A Bernstein Story* (Berlin Classics), a collaboration with the jazz musician Sebastian Studnitzky containing arrangements and original compositions by both musicians, was released in August 2019 and has been well received in classical and jazz circles alike. The newspaper *Mannheimer Morgen* described the album as "a bubbling laboratory with musically highly inspiring experiments" and praised it as "limitless listening pleasure". In May 2020 the CD *Father Copland* with the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn under Case Scaglione was released by Berlin Classics. In September 2020, the same label released his album of clarinet concertos by Carl Nielsen and Magnus Lindberg, which garnered enthusiastic reviews. In this recording the composer Magnus Lindberg conducts his concerto himself. Sebastian's most recent CD



features a recital programme together with the pianist Herbert Schuch of works by Johannes Brahms and Robert Schumann. It was released on the Berlin Classics label in spring 2022.

Sebastian Manz was born in Hanover in 1986 as the son of two pianists and as the grandson of the violinist Boris Goldstein, who hailed from Odessa. His German-Russian family home thus offered fertile soil for his musical roots. Sebastian joined a boys' choir at the age of six and started learning the piano early on, but soon decided to concentrate on the clarinet. He has been fascinated by the instrument ever since having heard Benny Goodman's recording of Carl Maria von Weber's E flat major Concerto. Among his most important teachers and supporters were none other than Sabine Meyer and Rainer Wehle.

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