

Christian Erny

The young Swiss conductor and pianist Christian Erny (*1988) has received worldwide attention for his unique musical versatility. Critics have appreciated his «enormous depth of expression» (*Onlinemerker*), «his breadth of dynamics and nuances» (*Fonoforum*) and his «technical brilliance» (*SWR2-Kultur*). *Feuilletonscout* marvelled at his «outstanding understanding of musical structures» as well as his «ability to find the right solution for any stylistic challenge».

A graduate from the Zurich University of the Arts, the Jacobs School of Music, Lucerne University, and the *Jiri Hlinka Piano Academy* in Bergen, Christian studied orchestral conducting with Howard Arman and Christof Brunner, choral conducting with Markus Utz, as well as piano with Hans-Jürg Strub, Jean-Louis Haguenaue, Leif Ove Andsnes and Eldar Nebolsin.

At the age of 6, Christian began to be taught at the conservatory of his hometown, and went on to receive a comprehensive musical education throughout his childhood and youth. Today, he draws on this to explore a wide variety of different musical areas and styles. His repertoire spans from Renaissance polyphony and Baroque opera to twentieth-century symphonic choral and orchestral music.

As the current holder of the cultural advancement award of his home town Winterthur (2019), Christian's current concert season 2019/20 takes him to Switzerland and other countries in Europe. Recently, he made his debut as an opera conductor, co-directing the Monteverdi production *Lieder von Krieg und Liebe* at Lucerne Theatre, conducted the Orchestra of Europe and was assistant to the *Musikkollegium Winterthur*. In recent years, he has directed ensembles such as the Lucerne Festival Strings, the Baroque orchestra *Les Passions de l'Âme*, the Sofia Symphony Orchestra, the orchestra of the Opera Ruse, and the *Junge Philharmonie Zentralschweiz*. In summer 2019, he was one of three young conductors selected to conduct the *Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunks* for a week. In the previous season 2018/19, he was a guest conductor at the Brahms Festival Winterthur, and assistant to ensembles such as *Basler Kammerorchester* or *Balthasar Neumann Chor*. For this he drew on years of experience as a conducting assistant to the choirs of *Winterthur Conservatory* (2012 to 2018).

As the artistic director and founder of the vocal ensemble The Zurich Chamber Singers, Christian recently signed an exclusive recording contract with *Berlin Classics*. Founded in 2015, the Zurich Chamber Singers have established themselves in the European choral world as a professional and very versatile ensemble, convincing with innovative choices of repertoire and highest vocal qualities. Their first album recording *Passio (Ars Produktion)* has received international attention and was nominated for the prize *Opus Klassik 2019*. The Zurich Chamber Singers perform sacred and secular choral music, as well as newly commissioned works by young promising composers from across the world.

In addition to his activities as a conductor, Christian is active as a pianist. He has performed on the stages of various European countries, the USA and South America. His recordings for *Solo Musica* and *Ars Produktion* have been awarded distinctions such as *Gramophone Editor's Choice*, and nominated for the *Deutscher Schallplattenpreis* and *Opus Klassik*. 2015 he was awarded a prize for the best interpretation of a work by Arnold Schönberg at the international piano competition *Île de France*. As part of the season 2020/21, Christian will make his debut with the *Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie*, with piano concertos by Beethoven and Clementi.