

Christoph Poppen

From August 2006 until Summer 2011 Christoph Poppen was Music Director of the German Radio Philharmonic, having been given the role of overseeing also the merger of his orchestra with the Radio Orchestra Kaiserslautern. A frequent guest with various orchestras he has appeared with the Bamberger Symphoniker, the Deutsches Sinfonie-Orchester Berlin, NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover, Staatskapelle Dresden, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Singapore Symphony, Detroit and Indianapolis symphony orchestras, the Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Camerata Salzburg.

In the 2011/12 season Christoph Poppen will be leading new productions of Mozart's Die Entführung aus dem Serail at the Aalto Theatre Essen, Die Zauberflöte at Frankfurt Opera and Falstaff at Innsbruck Opera House. Other highlights this season include his debuts with the Wiener Symphoniker and the Estonian National Orchestra. He returns to the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie and to the Danish National Symphony Orchestra for concerts and recordings of Hartmann's complete symphonies.

For his artistic achievements, his commitment to the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie and dedication to cultural issues in the Saarland over the past years, Christoph Poppen was honoured with the Saarland arts award - Kunstpreis des Saarlandes - 2010.

In 1995 Christoph Poppen started his 11 year tenure as Artistic Director of the Munich Chamber Orchestra, establishing the ensemble's new profile within a short period of time. His unmistakable programs were based on a contrast of the classical and the contemporary, with numerous commissioned works.

Christoph Poppen's extensive discography covers works by composers such as Tigran Mansurian, Sofia Gubaidulina, Karl Amadeus Hartmann, Giacinto Scelsi as well as Mozart, and Schubert, several of the recordings have been released on ECM Records. With the Munich Chamber Orchestra he has also recorded all of Haydn's violin concertos (together with Isabelle Faust) as well his own arrangement of Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" for string orchestra. A recording of the complete Mendelssohn symphonies with the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra has been released at the beginning of 2008 on Oehms Classics. Another recording of Poppen

and the orchestra with works by Frank Martin has been released in spring 2008 on ECM Records. At the moment Christoph Poppen and the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra are recording the complete Tchaikovsky symphonies on Oehms Classics. In February 2009 the first CD of this cycle with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 and his Overture 1812 was released on Oehms Classics, followed by Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1 and the Capriccio op. 45. Furthermore, a new CD with Jörg Widmann's "Messe für Orchester" and "Elegie" with the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Widmann as soloist was released on ECM Records in 2011.

As a violinist Christoph Poppen has been the laureate of many violin national and international violin competitions. In 1978 he was co-founder of the Cherubini Quartett (First Violin) that won the Grand Prix at the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France, in 1981. This resulted in concerts at important international musical venues as well as in numerous recordings for CD. Christoph Poppen's project Morimur of Bach's D Minor Partita with the Hilliard Ensemble was highly successful as concert version as well as on a CD recording.

Christoph Poppen was appointed professor for Violin and Chamber Music at the "Hochschule für Musik" in Detmold and later at the "Hanns Eisler Hochschule für Musik" in Berlin, where he was President from 1996 through 2000. From 2001 through 2005 Christoph Poppen was Artistic Director of the renowned ARD International Music Competition. Since 2003 Christoph Poppen is professor for Violin and Chamber Music at the "Hochschule für Musik und Theater" in Munich.

2011/12 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography.