



MARTIN HELMCHEN

Piano

“Mr Helmchen has a noble bearing and a noble sound, shaping lines as elegant and clean as a Greek temple’s.”

New York Times, Zachary Woolfe

With his highly virtuosic yet unpretentious style, pianist Martin Helmchen continues to impress the international music scene including superb debuts with Berliner Philharmoniker and Herbert Blomstedt, Wiener Philharmoniker and Valery Gergiev, London Philharmonic Orchestra and Vladimir Jurowski and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Andris Nelsons. In the USA, he has made his concerto debuts with New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall and at the Tanglewood Festival with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, on both occasions under the baton of Christoph von Dohnányi.

Martin Helmchen’s quest for exploring all facets of music-making is born in his passion for collaboration, not only with orchestras, but also through chamber music - largely ignited in early collaborations with the late cellist Boris Pergamenschikow. Since 2010, Martin Helmchen has been an Associate Professor of chamber music at the Kronberg Academy.

In 2017/18 season Martin Helmchen is soloist with City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Alexander Vedernikov, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden with Herbert Blomstedt, Wiener Symphoniker with Tomáš Netopil, Orchestre National de Belgique with Hugh Wolff and Warsaw Philharmonic with Olari Elts as well as with San Diego Symphony and Jahja Ling.

Martin Helmchen joins his wife, cellist Marie-Elisabeth Hecker, in duo and in various ensemble collaborations. They join violinist Augustin Hadelich to perform at the 2017 Aspen Festival, Carolin Widmann on a chamber music tour to South America. Furthermore, Martin Helmchen regularly performs with Christian Tetzlaff, Antje Weithaas, Sabine Meyer and from 2018 onwards with Frank Peter Zimmermann. He gives solo recitals in Chicago, Montreal and major European cities including London’s International Piano Series, Amsterdam, Stuttgart and Bonn. Continuing his love of the Lied recital he collaborates further with Juliane Banse and Julian Prégardien, the latter in London’s Wigmore Hall.

2017 saw two recording releases: for Accentus music, live from performance, Beethoven’s Triple Concerto with Isabelle Faust and Jean-Guihen Queryas with the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig conducted by Herbert Blomstedt and for outhere music a release of both Brahms cello sonatas with Marie-Elisabeth Hecker. For PentaTone, Helmchen has previously recorded Mozart, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Dvořák concertos as well as solo recordings and Schubert duos with Julia Fischer.

An early impact on Helmchen’s career was winning the “2001 Clara Haskil Competition”. He was a Fellow of the “Borletti-Buitoni-Trust in 2005” and the “Credit Suisse Young Artist” in 2006, culminating with his debut with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Valery Gergiev at the Lucerne Festival. Between 2005 and 2007, Martin Helmchen was a soloist on the “BBC New Generation Artists” scheme. A former student of Galina Iwanzowa in Berlin, Martin Helmchen continued his studies with Arie Vardie at the Hochschule für Musik Hannover. Other mentors are Alfred Brendel and William Grant Naboré.

SEASON 2017/2018

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