

Felix Schwartz, *Viola*

Biography

„Combining a career as a soloist with educating young and promising artists, creating one’s own artistic profile while directly affecting the promotion of and caring dedication to ambitious young people is the most rewarding experience in the artistic field.”

This thought characterizes the work of the sought-after soloist and chamber musician in his musical and educational engagements at the Music Academies in Berlin and Rostock.

Felix Schwartz’ career as versatile musician on manifold occasions was launched by two prizes at the International Music Competition at Geneva, being a student of Prof. Alfred Lipka at the Berlin Academy for Music “Hanns Eisler”. He was engaged at the Staatskapelle Berlin as principal viola soloist already during his student years. At the same time he singlemindedly pursued his artistic career as soloist and chamber musician. Felix Schwartz works with artists such as Daniel Barenboim, Elena Bashkirova, Yefim Bronfman, Giora Feidman, Michael Gielen, Boris Pergamenshikov (†), Nikolaj Znaider and Pinchas Zukerman. He has performed with orchestras such as the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Weimar Staatskapelle, the Berlin Staatskapelle, the Deutsches Kammerorchester and the Berliner Solisten. His repertoire as a soloist comprehends the canonical works for viola; but he is especially dedicated to the viola concertos by Bartók, Schnittke, Kantscheli, Milhaud, Walton, and Hindemith.

The viola soloist founded the "Berliner Streichsextett" as well as the "Trio Apollon" together with Matthias Glander und Wolfgang Kühnl; the trio recorded numerous CDs. The CD "Wasserspiele" (with compositions by Enescu, Poulenc, Françaix, Kurtág and Matthus) was awarded the "ECHO" Prize in 2006. Together with Daniel Barenboim and Matthias Glander Schwartz recorded Mozart’s „Kegelstatt-Trio“ for EMI in 2006.

Moreover, Felix Schwartz is a member of the reknowned Gaede Trio.

Meanwhile Schwartz has performed at various festivals, such as the Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival, the Kammermusikfestival Kreuth, the Festival Schloss Moritzburg, the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, the Ruhr Piano Festival, the Rheingau Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, the Musiktage Hitzacker and others.

As Professor at the Hochschule für Musik Rostock and founder of the Winter Academy Schloss Kröchlendorff, he dedicates himself to the appropriate qualification of young musicians. He is a mentor of the West-Eastern Divan Workshop for Orchestra and Chamber Music (under the aegis of Daniel Barenboim) in Weimar, Chicago, Sevilla and in Salzburg in Summer 2007. Since 2004, Felix Schwartz directs a viola class at the Academy for young musicians at Sevilla founded by Daniel Barenboim. He conducted master classes for viola and chamber music in Seoul/Korea, at Kloster Schöntal, at Schloss Weikersheim, and at Schloss Rheinsberg.

Numerous recordings with international broadcasting stations, and nearly every German station, document his artistic career that is further complemented by adaptations (such as the violin sonata by César Franck, published by Breitkopf) and editing work (as with the first recording of the piano quintet by Wilhelm Furtwängler with Tacet).

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www.felixschwartz.de