

musiccontact  
EGBERT ZINNER

Kirchenallee 27 - 20099 Hamburg – phone 49.40.28052227 – fax 49.40.28052228  
e-mail: service@musiccontact.de – www.musiccontact.de

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**STEFAN VLADAR, CONDUCTOR AND PIANIST**

As the youngest performer ever to win the International Beethoven Competition in Vienna, Austrian conductor and pianist Stefan Vladar has established a brilliant career as one of the most interesting and versatile musicians of his generation. A Viennese by birth, he studied at the Vienna Music Academy with Renate Kramer-Preisenhammer and Hans Petermandl.

Vladar's international career has taken him to the world's major music venues. He has performed under the baton of Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Chailly, Christoph von Dohnányi, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Daniel Harding, Christopher Hogwood, Louis Langrée, Sir Neville Marriner, Lord Yehudi Menuhin, Seiji Ozawa, Horst Stein, Christian Thielemann and Sándor Végh in appearances with the Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields, Bayerisches Staatsorchester, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra of Tokyo, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Vienna Symphony, among many others.

Since 1991 Stefan Vladar has devoted himself increasingly to conducting, appearing with such orchestras as the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Camerata Salzburg, Bruckner Orchester Linz, The Hague Philharmonic, Essen Philharmonic, Stuttgart Philharmonic, RSO Budapest, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Haydn Orchestra of Bolzano and Trento as well as the chamber orchestras of Prague, Cologne, Zurich, Basel and Ireland.

Stefan Vladar is in a variety of capacities as a soloist, chamber-music partner and conductor a highly esteemed guest artist at the world's most prestigious festivals, performing at the Salzburger Festspiele, the Festivals in Edinburgh, Osaka and Hong Kong as well as the Rheingau Musik Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, the Klavierfestival Ruhr, the Musikfest Bremen and the Schubertiade Schwarzenberg. In May 2010 he was the artist in residence of the German Bodenseefestival, with numerous concerts both as conductor and pianist, also conducting the opening concert with the Bamberger Symphoniker.

Stefan Vladar has been the principal director of the newly founded Recreation – Grosses Orchester Graz from 2002-2006. In May 2008 he was named artistic director and principal conductor of the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, following Heinrich Schiff in this position.

Among the internationally renowned chamber-music artists with whom Stefan Vladar regularly performs are the Ensemble WienBerlin, the Artis Quartet, Heinrich Schiff, Julian Rachlin, Janine Jansen, Clemens Hagen as well as the singers Angelika Kirchschlager and Bo Skovhus.

Stefan Vladar is the artistic director of the festivals in Neuberg and of the Upper Austrian Monastery Concerts, one of Austria's most important festivals. In 1999 he was appointed to a professorship in piano at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna.

Vladar's discography includes more than 30 releases for labels such as harmonia mundi, Sony Classical and Preiser-Records with his own series "Classic Selection" documenting his work as a pianist and as a conductor with music amongst others of Haydn, Schubert, Schumann, Chopin, Prokofiev and Scriabin. In 2009 he received the Decoration of Honour in Gold for Services to the Republic of Austria.

**Season 2011/12**