

# christoph koncz

*Pure genius [...] Christoph Koncz fascinates us with his incredible presence, sending impulses in all directions, communicating perfectly with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and combining virtuosity with tremendous expression.*

DER BUND (SWITZERLAND)

Austrian-Hungarian violinist Christoph Koncz enjoys a wide-ranging international career as a soloist, conductor, chamber musician and principal of the Vienna Philharmonic.

At the age of just nine, he received worldwide acclaim for starring as child prodigy Kaspar Weiss in the Canadian feature film *The Red Violin*, which won an Academy Award for Best Original Score.

During the current season, Christoph Koncz will perform the violin concertos by Mozart, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky in Europe, Japan and the U.S. as well as the Sibelius concerto and Brahms double concerto at the Berlin Philharmonie. Additionally, he will be recording chamber music by Johannes Brahms for Deutsche Grammophon alongside Leonidas Kavakos, Antoine Tamestit, Stephan Koncz and Andreas Ottensamer. Further highlights of his season include a tour of Japan with the Wiener Virtuosen, concerts as leader of the Koncz Quartet at the Salzburg Mozarteum and a recital at the Vienna Musikverein.

Christoph Koncz is also rapidly establishing himself internationally as a conductor. His Austrian conducting debut in the course of the 2012 Salzburg Festival led to invitations to the Georgia National Philharmonic Orchestra, the World Orchestra Festival at the Vienna Musikverein, the Berlin Symphony Orchestra at the Berlin Philharmonie, to Gustavo Dudamel's Simon Bolivar Orchestra of Venezuela and as an assistant of Marc Minkowski to Les Musiciens du Louvre • Grenoble. In May 2014, Christoph Koncz took the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra on tour of Germany, Austria and Switzerland with 14 performances at such prestigious venues as the Berlin, Cologne and Munich Philharmonie, Vienna Konzerthaus and KKL Lucerne. He conducted works by Mozart at the 2014 Salzburg Festival. During the ongoing season he will return to the Berlin Philharmonie and the 2015 Mozartwoche Salzburg festival.

Born 1987 in Konstanz into an Austrian-Hungarian family of musicians, Christoph Koncz received his first violin lesson at the age of four and entered the Vienna University of Music only two years later, studying with Eugenia Polatschek. He went on to study violin with Josef Hell, Igor Ozim and Boris Kuschmir at the Music Universities of Vienna, Salzburg and Graz as well as conducting with Mark Stringer in Vienna. Master classes with Pavel Vernikov, Erich Höbarth, Hiro Kurosaki (violin), Ferenc Rados, Daniel Barenboim (chamber music) and Daniel Harding (conducting) further enriched his musical education. In 2008, at the age of twenty, Christoph Koncz was appointed principal second violin of the Vienna Philharmonic.

He made his North American debut as a soloist aged twelve with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra conducted by Charles Dutoit, leading to collaborations with conductors such as Sir Neville Marriner, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Gábor Takács-Nagy and Marc Minkowski and ensembles such as the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra, the European Union Chamber Orchestra and the renowned Academy of St Martin in the Fields. Further engagements have taken him to numerous countries across Europe and to the Middle East, Asia and Australia as well as North and South America.

Much in demand as a chamber musician, Christoph Koncz's musical partners include Leonidas Kavakos, Joshua Bell, Julian Rachlin, Antoine Tamestit, Kim Kashkashian, Gautier Capuçon, Gary Hoffman, Franco Petracchi, Andreas Ottensamer and Rudolf Buchbinder. He also performs frequently with his brother Stephan Koncz, a sought-after cellist and member of the Berlin Philharmonic. They are both recipients of the European Music Prize for Youth.

Following his recording of works by Heise and Gade and many radio and TV broadcasts, Christoph Koncz's world premiere recording of Ernst Krenek's *Concertino* (Op. 27) with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields conducted by Sir Neville Marriner was released on Chandos Records last year.

Christoph Koncz plays a 1762 Giuseppe Gagliano violin courtesy of the Vienna Philharmonic.

