

Gustav Rivinius | Biography

Violoncello



"The soloist demonstrated his skills in the more than half-hour opus: Fast sections, double stops, melodies up to the highest registers and, above all, passionate intonation and rhythmic presence."

Gustav Rivinius is still the first and only German musician to be awarded a First Prize Gold Medal at the 1990 *International Tchaikovsky Competition* in Moscow. In addition, he received a special prize for the best interpretation of a Tchaikovsky composition, outperforming all other competitors. Since then he has appeared with leading musicians, orchestras and conductors around the world.

Among the many high points of an illustrious career, Gustav Rivinius has performed with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Lorin Maazel, Ingo Metzmacher and Hans Zender. In celebrations marking the re-opening of the Spanish Hall at Prague Castle, Gustav Rivinius joined the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra under Vaclav Neumann. For the gala marking the 50th anniversary of the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, he returned after several invitations for Beethoven's Triple Concerto together with Antje Weithaas and Lars Vogt under the direction of Horst Stein.

In the US, he has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and with orchestras in Saint Louis, Cincinnati, Washington D.C. as well as with the Houston Symphony. In Seoul, he performed with the KBS Symphony Orchestra and in Beijing with the National Ballet Orchestra. He has worked together with conductors such as Marek Janowski, Christoph Eschenbach and Dmitri Kitajenko. He has also played alongside orchestras of Lisbon, Toulouse, Lyon, the Helsinki Philharmonic and the Swedish Radio Orchestra, as well as in Lucerne and with the Tonhalle Orchester Zürich. Gustav Rivinius has appeared with all of Germany's radio symphony orchestras as well as with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, the Leipziger Gewandhausorchester and the Konzerthaus Orchester Berlin. In June 2025, he played the world premiere of Roland Kunz's Cello Concerto *Amber Concerto* with RSO Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern.

Along with his solo work, Gustav Rivinius devotes himself to chamber music. He plays regularly alongside his brothers in the Rivinius Piano Quartet and in recitals with his brother Paul at the piano. Gustav Rivinius is also an annual participant in the Heimbach *Spannungen* festival, where he performed and performs alongside his musical friends Lars Vogt, Christian Tetzlaff, Antje Weithaas, Isabelle Faust and Sharon Kam, and on numerous festival CD recordings.

Rivinius founded the Gasparo da Saló Trio, the Bartholdy String Quintet and the Tammuz Piano Quartet, which recorded both piano quartets by composer George Enescu for the cpo label. This label also released Gustav Rivinius' performance of the Cello Concerto by Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari accompanied by the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra under Alan Francis, and Henze's *Ode to the West Wind* featuring the RSO Saarbrücken conducted by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski was released by Arte Nova. Gustav Rivinius recorded the Brahms Clarinet Trio along with Sharon Kam and Martin Helmchen for Berlin Classics.

For many years Gustav Rivinius has been a Professor at the University of Music in Saarbrücken. He is co-founder of the Kammermusikstage Mettlach and thus has influenced the musical landscape of his native Saarland for over 30 years. He teaches a number of masterclasses and is a regular juror at major music competitions, including the 2011 *International Tchaikovsky Competition* in Moscow.