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Martin Stadtfeld | Biography
Piano

"Cheers for an [Beethoven] Appassionata, where Stadtfeld achieved shimmering colors, always with a clear view of the architecture. Noble legato and dramatic thunder, essential in their coexistence."

Martin Stadtfeld's career began with a piano from a clearance sale. By the age of seven, his professional aspirations were already clear: to be a concert pianist. Early on, he studied the rules and secrets of counterpoint and harmony, then entered as a young student into the class of Lev Natochenny in Frankfurt. During this time, he began to make a stir in competitions, winning prizes in Paris, Bolzano and Leipzig, and in 2002, won First Prize at the Bach Competition.

This is an award with special meaning, for the music of Johann Sebastian Bach is for the pianist like the Cape Canaveral of music, from here all paths lead to the cosmos of musical history. It's no wonder then that Stadtfeld's first CD recording took off like a rocket. The 22-year-old pianist began his recording career with one of the most delicate works of the entire piano repertoire, Bach's Goldberg Variations, just as Glenn Gould had with the same label. Lauded in the press worldwide, Martin Stadtfeld has made himself at home on the world's leading concert stages and as guest with major orchestras and festivals.

Success has not gone to his head, however. On the contrary, he has remained down to earth, whether practicing in his studio in the middle of the Ruhr area, putting together richly nuanced programs or composing his own works. "Music works very directly on us. Simple harmonies can spark something in all of us. This is why music stands for humanity, for universal feelings such as comfort and hope – it stands for a constant discussion with ourselves."

Learning from the treasures of the past and to create something new: Martin Stadtfeld's first composition, his *Homage to Bach* (a cycle in the style of Bach), as well as his *Handel Variations* have been released on CD. Delighted with the Handel arrangements, Crescendo magazine noted: "What Martin Stadtfeld is daring here is simply fantastic." In keeping with the Beethoven jubilee, the recordings *Beethoven for Children* and *My Beethoven* with beloved works, arrangements and excerpts from the sonatas have now been released. He also recently released his own compositions in his *Piano Songbook* which was very positively received by his audience. This season Martin Stadtfeld has released more of his own compositions and arrangements, this time based on traditional German folksongs.

Introducing children and young people to classical music is a matter of the heart for Martin Stadtfeld. "Classical music has been marginalized from the middle of society. If you ask children what they listen to, it's naturally going to be pop music. Of course, because in many cases their parents and grandparents have never heard anything other than popular music themselves. So, there was never an encounter with the world of classical music."

The music to Stadtfeld’s works, such as his Handel Variations, Bach’s Chaconne, Homage to Bach and his Piano Songbook have been published by Schott Music and focus on different levels of piano playing.

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