

## Andreas Staier | Biography

### Piano, Fortepiano, Harpsichord



"Staier played the instrument with such a wealth of colors, so expressive, cantabile, sometimes profound, rumbling, or even introverted."

The pianist Andreas Staier first became world famous as a harpsichordist. After studying with Lajos Rovatkay and Ton Koopman, he worked for three years with the Musica Antiqua Köln. But Staier is far more than a virtuoso representative of so-called historical performance practice. Rather, one could describe him as a passionate sound seeker. Each work that the pianist undertakes is not only analyzed in terms of its structure, but also explores the historical situation in which it originated. Through his meticulous approach, he has opened up completely

new interpretive approaches and made surprising listening experiences possible.

He also works with instrument makers to come as close as possible to this special sound in all its facets - be it works of the 16th century such as the English virginalists, Bach's Goldberg Variations, the Diabelli Variations of the late Beethoven or the last piano works by Brahms. Staier has also always turned to lesser known composers when he could discover original aspects in their works, such as Sebastián de Albero or Josef Antonín Štěpán.

His commitment does not end with the music of the 19th century. This is shown by Staier's collaboration with the French composer Brice Pauset (b. 1965) from whom several compositions have been commissioned. The *Kontra Sonata* (2000), a hybrid of Schubert's Sonata In A minor D 845 and Pauset's *Kontrakompositionen* is a prime example of Staier's epoch-crossing musical thinking.

All this is documented on numerous recordings, almost all of which have received prestigious awards. His recording of Bach's harpsichord concertos, together with the Freiburger Barockorchester, was honored with the ECHO Klassik in the *Best Recording* category (up to and including the 18th century). Even Staier himself has often been honored for his work. He was from 2012-2016 Artist in Residence at the AMUZ in Antwerp, and since 2011 at the Opéra de Dijon in the same capacity.

Whether at the harpsichord or the fortepiano, Staier performs at numerous renowned music festivals worldwide with ensembles such as the Freiburger Barockorchester, Concerto Köln, the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin or the Orquestra Barroca Casa da Música Porto with which he recorded *À Portuguesa* with works by Spanish composers for *harmonia mundi* in October 2018. For the Beethoven jubilee, Staier presented his album *Ein neuer Weg - Beethoven*, based on the three Op. 31 piano sonatas and the variations 34 and 35, which has received rave reviews.

Longtime musical partners include the pianists Alexander Melnikov, Christine Schornsheim and Tobias Koch, the violinists Isabelle Faust and Petra Müllejans or the tenor Christoph Prégardien. Andreas Staier maintains a close collaboration with Daniel Sepec and the cellist Roel Dieltiens, with whom he has performed well-known compositions for piano trio since 2010. The trio released an album of the Schubert piano trios in Autumn 2016.

Staier's extensive interests and abilities have made him a much sought-after educator from an early age. In addition to masterclasses worldwide, he was Professor of Harpsichord and Fortepiano at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis from 1987-1995. During the 2017/18 season, Andreas Staier was a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

For several years, Andreas Staier also performs as a conductor and orchestra leader.