

Biography | February 2024

Severin von Eckardstein is one of the leading German pianists of his generation and is at home on many of the world's great podiums with solo and orchestral concerts.

He has delighted audiences and press alike with many highly acclaimed concerts, amongst others in Berlin, Munich, Milan, Moscow, Madrid, London, Paris, New York, Amsterdam, Budapest, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul. He performed at great music festivals, including Klavier-Festival Ruhr, Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival and Husum Festival (Germany), Aldeburgh (UK), the Gilmore Festival in Michigan and Miami International Piano Festival, La Roque d'Anthéron (France). He has performed with conductors such as Valery Gergiev, Philippe Herreweghe, Lothar Zagrosek and Marek Janowski, and made important debuts with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Paavo Järvi, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jaap van Zweden and the Hungarian National Philharmony together with Zsolt Hamar. In November 2020 he debuted with Mariinsky Orchestra conducted by Valery Gergiev and the Ural Philhamonic in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

In September 2021, he debuted with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra in Dubai, performing Beethoven's 5th Piano Concerto. As a frequent guest of the concert series "Meesterpianisten" at Concertgebouw Amsterdam, von Eckardstein opened the gala concert celebrating the series' 25th jubilee. And he was reinvited to this extraordinary series for the 8th time.

Born in 1978 in Duesseldorf, Germany, the pianist won prizes at numerous noteworthy international competitions, e.g. "Ferruccio Busoni" in Bozen, the "Leeds International Piano Competition", "José Iturbi" in Valencia, the ARD-Competition in Munich and was awarded first prize at the "Concours Reine Elisabeth" in Brussels. On several occasions, he has been awarded special prizes for the "Best Interpretation of Contemporary Music." He received the "European Culture Award" and the "Echo Classic Award."

Von Eckardstein's education was shaped predominately by his teachers Prof. Barbara Szczepanska, Prof. Karl-Heinz Kämmerling and Prof. Klaus Hellwig. At the International Piano Academy Lake Como, he gained further instruction and inspiration. Other teachers were Alfred Brendel, Vitalij Margulis, Karl Ulrich Schnabel, Alicia de Larrocha, Leon Fleisher and Menahem Pressler, to name only a few. He has been teaching masterclasses in South Korea, Finland, Belgium, at the University of Arts Berlin and other places.

Chamber music also plays a significant role in his repertoire with performances at festivals such as the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, Delft Chamber Music Festival, Netherlands, and the Risør Chamber Music Festival, Norway, where he appeared with cellist Heinrich Schiff. He has frequently played concerts with highly renowned musicians, such as Andrej Bielov, Barnabas Kelemen, Isang Enders and Nicolas Altstaedt.

In 2015, he founded the chamber concert series "Klangbrücken" at Konzerthaus Berlin together with violinist Franziska Hölscher.

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Von Eckardstein's repertoire encompasses music from the Baroque era to the 21st century. As such, he has premiered several works of contemporary composers, in particular the American composer Sidney Corbett. One of his special focuses is the demanding late Romantic piano music of less known composers, such as Nicolai Medtner.

CD recordings with compositions by Medtner, Scriabin, Wagner, Schubert, Schumann, Debussy and others are highly regarded. His album of Dupont's cycle "La maison dans les dunes" was awarded with the "Diapason d'Or". Another CD featuring Prokofiev's "War sonatas" was released in August 2021.

The latest CD, released by Artalinna in April 2023, contains Robert Schumann's Kreisleriana and Adolf Jensen's Eroticon. Both pieces were recorded on a Steinway grand piano in a Parisian church during the lockdown. The artist's aim was to juxtapose Schumann's energetic Kreisleriana with "perhaps the best piano cycle by Adolf Jensen, his "Eroticon", seven character pieces alluding to figures from Greek mythology with corresponding verses preceding each piece". The CD was awarded the Diapason d'Or. His latest album "Vers la flamme" was released in autumn 2023.

Short version

Severin von Eckardstein is one of the leading German pianists of his generation and is at home on many of the world's great podiums with solo and orchestral concerts.

He gave highly acclaimed performances in Berlin, Munich, Moscow, London, Paris, Madrid, New York, Amsterdam, Budapest, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Seoul and many music festivals.

Chamber music also plays an important role in his repertoire. He has performed at festivals such as the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival, Finland, and the Risør Chamber Music Festival, Norway and has made guest appearances with conductors such as Valery Gergiev, Philippe Herreweghe, Lothar Zagrosek and Marek Janowski.

The musician, born in Düsseldorf in 1978, has won prizes at important international competitions, such as the "Ferruccio Busoni" in Bozen, the "Leeds International Piano Competition" and the "José Iturbi" in Valencia, the ARD competition in Munich and received 1st prize in the famous "Grand Prix International Reine Elisabeth" in Brussels. He has long been giving master classes himself.

Severin von Eckardstein's extraordinarily extensive repertoire includes works from the Baroque period to music of the 21st century.

His CD with Schumann's "Kreisleriana" and Adolf Jensen's "Eroticon", released by Artalinna in April 2023 was awarded the "Diapason d'Or". His latest album "Vers la flamme" was released in autumn 2023.