

Biography | September 2025

The cellist Peter Bruns has established an excellent reputation in the international music world as one of Germany's leading cellists. Born in Berlin, he studied with Professor Peter Vogler at Berlin's "Hanns Eisler" School of Music.

Peter Bruns has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in renowned concert halls throughout Europe, America and Asia, including the Berliner Philharmonie, the Carnegie Hall in New York, the Wigmore Hall in London, concert halls in Tokyo and Hong Kong, the Semperoper Dresden, the Leipziger Gewandhaus as well as at the most important festivals including the Kuhmo, Bergen, Berlin and Dresden music festivals, the Budapest Spring Festival and Gidon Kremer's Lockenhaus festival.

The artist has also performed as a soloist with many major orchestras and has toured with the Staatskapelle Dresden as well as with the RAI, MDR and Berlin symphony orchestras. He has collaborated with conductors such as Giuseppe Sinopoli, Herbert Blomstedt, Colin Davis, Eliahu Inbal, Thierry Fischer, Christoph Prick, Marc Albrecht, Michail Jurowski and Bruno Weil. His fascination with the language of music and the instrumentation of the various stylistic periods has led to close collaboration with renowned orchestras in this field, in particular with the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin.

From 1993-2000, Peter Bruns was the Artistic Director of the Schloss Moritzburg Chamber Music Festival. From 1998 to 2005, he was Professor for Cello at the Dresden School of Music and, since 2005, has held the same position at the School of Music in Leipzig. In 2014 Peter Bruns became artistic director of the Mendelssohn Kammerorchester Leipzig. He usually conducts the orchestra from his position as solo cellist, being part of the ensemble, which presumes a high level of communication between him, the concertmaster and the other musicians. Besides that, Peter Bruns campaigns for the musical education of young people, taking part in Lars Vogt's project "Rhapsody in School".

Peter Bruns has recorded a series of award winning CDs including Brahms's Cello Sonatas, Bach's Six Suites for Cello Solo, the works of Gabriel Fauré, Ernest Bloch, Charles Koechlin and Robert Schumann, a recording of a Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach concert which won the Cannes Classical Award for "Best CD of the Year", Antonin Dvořák's works for cello and orchestra with the Staatskapelle Dresden and highly acclaimed recordings of Haydn's Cello Concertos, Robert Schumann and Robert Volkmann with the Mendelssohn Kammerorchester Leipzig.

After the recording of Friedrich Gulda's concert for cello and brass orchestra with the Sächsische Bläserphilharmonie on the CD „Images and Mirrors“ (GENUIN classics) he released further CDs at Klanglogo. The latest being „Cosmopolitan Mendelssohn“ with the Mendelssohn Kammerorchester Leipzig including works by Mendelssohn, Berlioz, Volkmann, Donizetti and Gade. In 2020 "Beethoven - Most Complete! 1-3" was released. These duo recordings together with the pianist Annegret Kuttner which, in addition to the common sonatas, also contain rare or unrecorded rarities, including the sonata op. 64 (!) and the arrangement for violoncello by Beethoven's disciple Carl Czerny, which was performed during Beethoven's lifetime.

Peter Bruns plays on a cello from Carlo Tononi, Venice 1730, which was once owned by Pablo Casals.