

The pianist Andreas Staier first became world famous as a harpsichordist. After studying with Lajos Rovatkay and Ton Koopman, he worked with Musica Antiqua Köln for three years. But Staier is much more than a virtuoso representative of so-called historical performance practice. Rather, he could be described as a passionate seeker of sound. Every work that the pianist takes on is not only analysed in detail in terms of its structure, but Staier also researches the historical situation in which it was created. Through his meticulous approach, he has opened up new interpretative approaches and made surprising listening experiences possible. To this end, he also works with instrument makers to achieve special nuances of sound – whether in works from the 16th century, such as those by the English virginalists, Bach's Goldberg Variations, Beethoven's late Diabelli Variations or Brahms' last piano works. Staier has also turned his attention to lesser-known composers whenever he has discovered original aspects in their works, such as Sebastián de Albero and Josef Antonín Štěpán.

However, his commitment does not end with 19th-century music. His collaboration with French composer Brice Pauset (born 1965) has resulted in several compositions, such as the Kontra-Sonate, written in 2000: a hybrid of Schubert's Sonata in A minor, D 845, and Pauset's counter-compositions – a prime example of Staier's cross-epochal musical thinking. Andreas Staier used the coronavirus break to complete his own compositions Anklänge (Echoes) – six harpsichord pieces that he links to Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E major from the second part of The Well-Tempered Clavier. The work was premiered in January 2023 at the Cologne Philharmonic Hall, and the accompanying album Méditation was released in 2024 by Alpha Classics (Outhere Music). The sheet music is published by Editions Lemoine.

Staier's expertise is documented on numerous recordings, all of which have won prestigious awards. Staier himself has also received numerous honours for his work: in 2024 he was awarded the Bach Medal by the City of Leipzig, and from 2012 to 2016 he was Artist in Residence at AMUZ in Antwerp and in the same role at the Opéra de Dijon from 2011 to 2021. Staier has performed worldwide on both the harpsichord and the fortepiano at numerous renowned music festivals and concert venues with ensembles such as the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, Concerto Köln, the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin and the Orquestra Barroca Casa da Música Porto, with whom he released his CD À Portuguesa with works by Spanish composers on harmonia mundi in October 2018. Staier presented his album Ein neuer Weg – Beethoven (A New Path – Beethoven) to mark the Beethoven anniversary year. His recording of The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 2, is considered a benchmark recording. With the release of Book 1 in 2023, the publication of the work was completed. Together with Roel Dieltiens, he also released Beethoven's Cello Sonatas Op. 102 and the Bagatelles Op. 119 & 126.

His long-standing chamber music partners include pianists Alexander Melnikov, Christine Schornsheim and Tobias Koch, violinists Isabelle Faust and Petra Müllejans, and tenor Christoph Prégardien. He has a long-standing collaboration with Daniel Sepec and Roel Dieltiens, with whom he has recorded Schubert's piano trios, among other works.

Andreas Staier | fortepiano, harpsichord, piano

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Staier's wide-ranging interests and abilities made him a much sought-after teacher early on. In addition to giving masterclasses worldwide, he was professor of harpsichord and fortepiano at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis from 1987 to 1995. In the 2017/2018 season, Andreas Staier was at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin.

For several years now, Andreas Staier has also been working as a conductor and orchestra director.