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Kaspar Zehnder

Flautist

Conductor

Artistic Director

Kaspar Zehnder was born in 1970 in Riggisberg/Bern, a village in the foothills of the Bernese Alps (Switzerland). He grew up in a musical family and received his first flute lessons at the age of eight from Heidi Péter-Indermühle. Three years later he started piano lessons with Agate Rytz-Jaggi.

In 1986 Kaspar Zehnder entered the Hochschule der Künste in Bern and studied flute with Heidi Péter-Indermühle and conducting with Ewald Körner while still at secondary school. In 1990 he graduated from high school with a Matura in ancient languages (Literargymnasiums Bern-Neufeld). At the age of 23 he completed his studies at the University of the Arts with teaching, soloist and conducting diplomas.

Kaspar continued his training as a flutist with Aurèle Nicolet in Basel and Siena and in 1995 became a member of the European Mozart Academy, where he explored the chamber music repertoire with professors from the Mozarteum Salzburg, the Conservatoire de Paris and the Juilliard School.

In addition to his active career as a soloist with renowned orchestras and in recitals, Kaspar Zehnder is a permanent member of the chamber music formations Ensemble "mit vier" and "Ensemble Paul Klee". He regularly tours with renowned musician friends from all over the world.

His preference for unconventional programs, reflected not only in his concert performances but also on numerous recordings, led to his appointment as artistic director of the Murten Classics Festival (1999 to 2020) and musical director of the Zentrum Pau Klee in Bern (2005 à 2012).

As a conductor, Kaspar Zehnder conducts leading orchestras throughout Europe. Since 2012, he has been the artistic director of the Biel Solothurn Symphony Orchestra (Switzerland), since 2018 of the Philharmonic Orchestra Hradec Králové (Czech Republic) and since 2019 of the International Summer Academy Biel/Bienne (Switzerland). His repertoire includes countless symphonic and vocal works ranging from the great oratorios of J.S. Bach to the ensemble music of our time and encompasses almost the entire symphonic output of the Classical and Romantic periods, with an emphasis on the unknown, the new and the newly discovered.

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