

## **Mark Johnston**

Mark Johnston, born 1986, is a versatile and widely experienced musician with accomplishments in a variety of musical settings. Beyond his skill as a violinist, he is versed as a collaborative pianist and répétiteur; as a conductor; as a violist; and as a composer.

In 2017-'18 Mark's engagements include solo performances of violin concerti by Hartmann and Bernstein in Karlsruhe and Frankfurt, the inauguration of a chamber music festival by Stuttgart, and the realisation of a multi-year project to perform the complete Kafka Fragments by György Kurtág staged. As a conductor he will co-create a world première at the Hamburg State Opera's Opera Stabile in co-operation with the Deutsche Bank Foundation.

After working from 2014-2016 as a freelance rehearsal pianist and conductor, with among others the Berlin Philharmonic, Baden-Baden Osterfestspiele, Young Opera Stuttgart, and Opera Frankfurt, Mark spent the 2016-'17 season on staff at the Theater für Niedersachsen (Theater for Lower Saxony) in Hildesheim, where he conducted performances of Strauss' Gypsy Baron.

Recognition of Mark's accomplishments dates from 1996, when in the span of a year he won the first of two Royal Conservatory of Music silver medals and Espace Musique Ottawa's Young Composers Competition, Anagnoson and Kinton premièring his entry. He was third prize winner in Ottawa's National Arts Centre Orchestra Bursary competition in 2006 and an inaugural leadership scholarship winner with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada in 2010. In May 2011, he won the Via Salzburg Emerging Composer Competition. In the summer of 2013 he was a Richard Wagner Society scholarship recipient, receiving an invitation to attend the Bayreuth Festspiel in Wagner's bicentenary year. From 2015-2017 he was a stipendiat of the Akademie Musiktheater heute (Academy for Music Theatre Today) of the Deutsche Bank Foundation.

From 2012 until 2014, Mark was the conductor of the Fellbach Chamber Orchestra, located near Stuttgart. As part of his conducting studies he has conducted several of the Stuttgart region's professional orchestras, including the Stuttgart Philharmonic, Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, and Southwest German Philharmonic Orchestra Constance. During that period he was also a member of Stuttgart-based band Asamblea Mediterranea, playing Sephardic music, and the British charity Live Music Now, performing concerts in retirement centres, hospices, and prisons.

Mark graduated with Master of Music degrees in violin in July 2012 and in conducting in February 2014 at the State Conservatory for Music and the Performing Arts in Stuttgart. He studied violin with Kolja Lessing and conducting with Per Borin. He graduated with an Artist Diploma from The Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory in Toronto in June 2010, where he studied violin with Mayumi Seiler. At the University of Toronto, where in 2008 he earned his Bachelor of Music in Violin Performance with a minor in composition, he studied violin with Scott St. John and Annalee Patipatanakoon and composition with Christos Hatzis, Gary Kulesha, and Alexander Rapoport. He is also doubly an Associate of The Royal Conservatory of Music's Examination curriculum, earning this distinction in 2004 in violin and piano performance. He lives in Hildesheim.

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