

# Sebastian Manz – Clarinet

[www.sebastianmanz.com](http://www.sebastianmanz.com)



## BIOGRAPHY 2023/2024

Sebastian Manz, international soloist, chamber musician and Principal Clarinetist of the SWR Symphony Orchestra, had his big breakthrough in 2008 when he won first prize in the clarinet category of the ARD International Music Competition in Munich. During the preceding 40 years the first prize had not been awarded in this section; Sebastian Manz was also awarded the coveted audience prize and further special prizes. Previously he had also won the German Music Competition together with his piano partner Martin Klett. Sebastian subsequently received the ECHO KLASSIK prize three times for outstanding CD recordings, as well as the sought-after Emerging Artist Award in New York. For his album *A Bernstein Story*, which was released in 2019, he received the OPUS KLASSIK award in the category "Classic without Borders" in October 2020.

In addition to solo engagements throughout Europe (including with the *Staatsphilharmonie Nürnberg*, the *Bochumer Symphoniker*, the *Niedersächsisches Staatsorchester Hannover* and the *Göttinger Symphonie Orchester*), he will return to the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in the USA for several concerts during the season 2023/2024. With his chamber music partners Franziska Hölscher, Felix Klieser, Tanja Tetzlaff, Dag Jensen, Wen Xiao Zheng and Dominik Wagner he will perform the Beethoven Septet in several cities. He remains a welcome guest in renowned concert halls, whether with ensembles such as the Boulanger Trio, the Vision String Quartet, the Armida Quartet, or with his longstanding musical partners Herbert Schuch, Maximilian Hornung, Martin Klett and Sebastian Studnitzky and more recently also with Kit Armstrong, with whom he is now collaborating more frequently. In the current season Sebastian Manz will be performing at the *Prinzregententheater* in Munich, the *Konzerthaus* in Vienna, the *Philharmonie Luxembourg* and in the *Liederhalle* in Stuttgart, amongst others, as well as at various festivals such as the Mozart Festival Würzburg and the Klavier-Festival Ruhr.

Sebastian Manz' enthusiasm for arranging and composing is reflected in his concert programs and in his discography, which has won numerous awards. His CD *A Bernstein Story* (Berlin Classics), a collaboration with the jazz musician Sebastian Studnitzky containing arrangements and original compositions by both musicians, was released in August 2019 and has been well received in classical and jazz circles alike. The newspaper *Mannheimer Morgen* described the album as "a bubbling laboratory with musically highly inspiring experiments" and praised it as "limitless listening pleasure". In May 2020 the CD *Father Copland* with the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn under Case Scaglione was released by Berlin Classics. The same label released his album of clarinet concertos by Carl Nielsen and Magnus Lindberg, which garnered enthusiastic reviews, in September 2020. In this recording Magnus

**GRUNAU & PAULUS MUSIC MANAGEMENT GMBH**

Almsstraße 32 · D 31134 Hildesheim

+49 (0)5121 7558458 · [contact@grunau-paulus.com](mailto:contact@grunau-paulus.com) · [www.grunau-paulus.com](http://www.grunau-paulus.com)



Lindberg conducts his concerto himself. Sebastian's most recent CD features a recital program together with the pianist Herbert Schuch of works by Johannes Brahms and Robert Schumann. It was released on the Berlin Classics label in spring 2022.

Sebastian Manz was born in Hanover in 1986 as the son of two pianists and as the grandson of the violinist Boris Goldstein, who hailed from Odessa. His German–Russian family home thus offered fertile soil for his musical roots. Sebastian joined a boys' choir at the age of six and started learning the piano early on, but soon decided to concentrate on the clarinet. He has been fascinated by the instrument ever since having heard Benny Goodman's recording of Carl Maria von Weber's E flat major Concerto. Among his most important teachers and supporters were none other than Sabine Meyer and Rainer Wehle.

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