

Sebastian Manz

Clarinet

www.sebastianmanz.com



BIOGRAPHY

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.

During the 2025/26 season, Sebastian Manz will give solo performances across Europe (including at the Tonhalle Zurich and the Casino Bern, with the North German Philharmonic Orchestra Rostock, the Schleswig-Holstein Symphony Orchestra, and the Rheinische Philharmonie State Orchestra) and once again appear at the Music@Menlo Festival in the USA. Alongside his chamber music partners, Franziska Hölscher, Stephen Waarts, Felix Klieser, Andrei Ioniță, Theo Plath, Haesue Lee and Dominik Wagner, he will perform Schubert's Octet and Beethoven's Septet at various venues, including the Prinzregententheater in Munich, the Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg, as well as in Münster, Heilbronn, Göppingen and Eckernförde. Sebastian Manz is a welcome guest on renowned stages, performing with ensembles such as the Armida Quartet and the Schumann Quartet, as well as with his long-standing musical partners Danae Dörken, Herbert Schuch, Maximilian Hornung, Martin Klett and Sebastian Studnitzky. His upcoming performances include concerts in Innsbruck and Liechtenstein, as well as at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. He will also be performing at festivals such as the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival and the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival. The season will culminate in the presentation of his groundbreaking project *Quasi Cool* at the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival and the Hohenloher Kultursommer.

Sebastian Manz's enthusiasm for arranging and composing is evident not only in this project, but also throughout his award-winning discography. 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. In September 2020, the same label released his album of clarinet concertos by Carl Nielsen and Magnus Lindberg, which garnered enthusiastic reviews. The composer Magnus Lindberg himself conducted his concerto in this recording. Sebastian Manz released a recital album with pianist Herbert Schuch in 2022 on the Berlin Classics label, featuring works by Johannes Brahms and Robert Schumann. In spring 2026, Sebastian Manz will release *Quasi Cool*, a highly anticipated double album representing the full breadth of his artistic output in recent years.

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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