

Kevin Griffiths

The conductor Kevin Griffiths (1978) was born into a musical family in London. He was appointed Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Collegium Musicum Basel in 2011.

Kevin Griffiths studied with David Zinman in Aspen (USA), with Colin Metters at the Royal Academy of Music in London and at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. He won the 2nd prize at the International Conducting Competition "Sir Georg Solti" in 2010 and was a scholarship holder of the "Melgaard Young Conductors Scheme" with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment London in 2010/11. After his performance at the Georg Solti Competition the press wrote: Griffiths attracted much attention with a compact and extremely sovereign Strauss." (Wiesbadener Kurier 2010) and "It seemed as though Griffiths would win the race (in total there had been nearly 600 candidates in the competition) – this clearly seemed the audience's reaction, and clear were the musical qualities." (Frankfurter Rundschau).

As founder and principal conductor of the London Steve Reich Ensemble, Griffiths has also won international recognition for his commitment to contemporary music. The Ensemble performs at home and abroad and has won the acclaimed Diapason d'Or award for its debut CD under the label CPO. EMI Classics published his second highly praised recording with the ensemble in September 2011. Other CD-recordings of works by Haydn, Mozart, Romberg, Hans Huber and Paul Juon will appear on the label CPO soon.

Griffiths conducted numerous renowned orchestras including the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, the Frankfurt Opera and Museum Orchestra, the Basel Symphony Orchestra, the Musikkollegium Winterthur, the Orchestra della Radio Svizzera Italiana, the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, the Badische Staatskapelle, the Northwest German Philharmonic Orchestra, the Jenaer Philharmonie, the Orquesta Sinfonica de Navarra, the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment London and the Hallé Orchestra Manchester. He conducted the Chamber Orchestra of Berlin at the Berliner Philharmonie. In summer 2015 he was invited to the Menuhin Festival Gstaad and was invited back for 2016.

Artists with whom Kevin Griffiths has worked include Sir James Galway, Isabelle van Keulen, Sergei Nakariakov, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Paul Lewis, Alexander Rudin, Ingulf Turban and soloists from the Berlin Philharmonic (Stefan Dohr, Wenzel Fuchs, Jonathan Kelly, Markus Weidmann). He has furthermore assisted Vladimir Jurowski, Leonard Slatkin, Trevor Pinnock, Sir Mark Elder and Sir Simon Rattle.

Kevin Griffiths has premiered works of composers such as Hans Huber, Daniel Schnyder, Elena Firsova, Steven Mackey and Rodolphe Schacher. Besides his concert repertoire, he has conducted several opera productions including Ravel's double bill "L'heure espagnole" and "L'enfant et les sortilèges", "Die Fledermaus" by Johann Strauss and Mozart's "Don Giovanni".

In addition, Kevin Griffiths is dedicated to making classical music accessible for children and young people. His concerts in which he both conducts and gives spoken commentary have enjoyed great success with the public.

For a dance project with over 100 children Kevin Griffiths collaborated with the English choreographer Royston Maldoom – also known for his film "Rhythm is it" with the Berlin Philharmonic.

Press Reviews:

The BaZ writes: " the strength of his conducting lies in creating a very soft sound, which gains in beauty in piano and pianissimo, and to which the orchestra finds its way quickly back to after a vigorous climax."

(Fabian Kristmann BaZ).

The Mindener Tagblatt wrote : " ... sensational performance (Schumann 's 4th Symphony), which is a par of the exemplary recordings of Gardiner and Harnoncourt. "

(Mindener Tageblatt)

"Musically, the Collegium Musicum Basel is doing splendidly one year after the young Kevin Griffiths took over as musical director."

(Badische Zeitung)

"The Solti conducting prizewinner Kevin Griffiths excelled at the Museumskonzert in the Alte Oper Frankfurt with Sibelius and Mendelssohn." (Frankfurter Neue Presse)

"Kevin Griffiths made for a historically informed performance. This Beethoven had no oppressive gloom in its luggage, but excelled by brightness and transparency".
(Mindener Tageblatt)

"The audience of the museum society was captivated and convinced of the way that Griffiths combined accuracy and swinging elegance in his conducting."
(Frankfurter Neue Presse)

„Fresh interpretations breathe new life“.
(Philip Clark - Gramophone on Kevin Griffiths and the London Steve Reich Ensemble)