

LAURENS PATZLAFF (GERMANY)

University of Music (Lübeck)



Laurens Patzlaff is both a Classical and Jazz pianist whose musicianship offers audiences a fresh perspective on the rare yet dazzling intermixture of Classical music and improvisation. With a range of styles few if any can imagine in the formal world of the Classics, Laurens is devoted to promoting and popularizing this fascinating musical duo of improvisation and the Classics. In November 2012 he released his much acclaimed debut album "Reflections on Debussy," touted by the *Freie Presse* as "One of the most exciting contributions to the Debussy year 2012." His second album, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice," was released in 2015. A solo artist as well as an accomplished chamber musician, this multi-award-winning pianist has worked with numerous orchestras, including the Stuttgart State Orchestra, and appeared in concerts throughout Europe, Asia, the U.S.A., Australia and New Zealand. Appointed at Lübeck University of Music in 2013 as Germany's first ever Professor for Piano and Improvisation (Jazz and Classical), Laurens has also taught (since 2007) at the Stuttgart State University for Music and Performing Arts and regularly hosts master classes at universities around the world.

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Beethoven the improviser

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In 2020, Beethoven's music will be honored by countless new recordings of his works, ceremonies and cultural events of all kinds. With all due respect to Beethoven as one of the greatest musicians of all time, it is often forgotten that alongside his extraordinary talent as a composer, pianist and conductor, he was also a genius when it came to improvisation. He amazed audiences in Vienna with his spontaneous, creative and often extravagant piano improvisations not only during cadences at his piano concerts, but also during the musical "preparation" of the audience for subsequent compositions; the so-called prelude. The lecture recital tries to show some ideas how to improvise, based on compositions by Beethoven which can be seen as evidence for his improvisation skills as well as some facts about the live improvisations of Beethoven in his recitals.