

Ulf Schneider | Violin

Biography (Complete)

Artistic intensity and emotional density determine the character of Ulf Schneider's violin play. The musician based in Hannover developed a special passion for chamber music early in his musical career.

With Martin Löhr (violoncello) and Eckart Heiligers (piano), Ulf Schneider forms the award-winning Trio Jean Paul which has been highly praised by the international music society. Their extensive concert activity has seen the trio in unchanged formation regularly touring Europe, Asia and Australia as well as North and South America for more than twenty years. Equally important in Ulf Schneider's musical life is the repertoire for violin and piano; he has maintained long-standing and inspiring musical partnerships with pianists Stephan Imorde and Jan Philip Schulze.

Moreover, he has developed a special interest in programs featuring a close combination of music and literature. He and pianist Stephan Imorde share the stage with actors like Martina Gedeck, Fritzi Haberlandt, Gudrun Landgrebe, Sophie von Kessel, Angela Winkler, Stefan Kurt and Stefan Hunstein, alternating and combining music with spoken passages.

Ulf Schneider also expresses his love for string chamber music with fellow members of the Bartholdy Quintet: Anke Dill, Barbara Westphal, Volker Jacobsen and Gustav Rivinius. Highlights of the last seasons include concerts ranging from Philharmonie Berlin, Laeiszhalle Hamburg, Glocke Bremen, Konzerthaus Dortmund, Tonhalle Zurich, Mozarteum Salzburg, Wigmore Hall London, Palais des Beaux Arts Bruxelles, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Vienna Konzerthaus and Liceo da Cámara Madrid to Teatro Verdi Pisa, Bolshoi Theatre Moscow, Sociedad Filarmónica Bilbao, Gulbenkian Foundation Lisbon and Sydney Opera House.

Further highlights include tours through the United States and Canada with concerts in Los Angeles, New York, Baltimore, Vancouver, Quebec and Montreal, as well as appearances at major festivals such as Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niedersachsen, Ludwigsburg, Baden-Baden, Bad Kissingen, Berlin, Edinburgh, Lucerne, Kuhmo, Schwetzingen, Heidelberg, Rheingau, Beethovenfest Bonn, Klavierfestival Ruhr and Schubertiade Schwarzenberg.

As soloist, Ulf Schneider has appeared with Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn, Beethoven Orchestra Bonn, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Orchestra I Pomeriggi Musicali Milano, Presidential Orchestra Ankara, Northern Bohemian Philharmonie Teplice and the Berlin Symphony with conductors such as Jörg Faerber, Antonello Manacorda, Charles Olivieri-Munroe, Eiji Oue, Petri Sakari and Marc Soustrot, among others.

During the 2014/15 season, Trio Jean Paul performed the world premiere of *Concerto for Piano Trio and Orchestra* by Wolfgang Rihm in the Berlin Philharmonie together with the WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne under the baton of Jukka-Pekka Saraste. The concert will be repeated in the Cologne Philharmonie with further performances with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra under Jaap van Zweden, the NDR Radiophilharmonie under Eiji Oue and with the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich under Sylvain Cambreling.

In fall 2015, he will perform Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* together with Volker Jacobsen (viola) and the Chamber Orchestra of the Prague National Theatre.

Besides his numerous radio recordings, he has released albums with CAVI-Music, ArsMusici,

Membran and ECM. His recordings were highly praised by the press and awarded several times with important accolades, such as the German Record Critics' Award and the Supersonic Award. Ulf Schneider is a sought-after, passionate and dedicated teacher at the Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media, where he is Professor since 2001.

Many of his students are prizewinners of national and international competitions, members of leading European orchestras, teachers at German universities for music as well as chamber musicians in renowned ensembles.

Ulf Schneider is regularly invited to teach master classes, and often serves as jury member of competitions, e.g. at the Mozarteum Salzburg, the Franz Liszt Academy Budapest, the Summer Academy Radolfzell at the Lake Constance, the International Joseph Joachim Violin Competition in Hannover, the Concours international de musique de chambre de Lyon, the "Premio Trio di Trieste" and the Violin Competition "Gradus ad Parnassum" in Vienna.

Ulf Schneider was born in 1968 in Salzgitter and grew up in Braunschweig. He began studying in Hannover with Jens Ellermann and continued his studies at the Juilliard School in New York with Felix Galimir and Masao Kawasaki. He completed a post graduate program with Thomas Zehetmair at the Berlin University of Arts and subsequently became a member of the Zehetmair Quartet for several years.

His artistic development was strongly influenced through artistic impulses from Hatto Beyerle, Eberhard Feltz, Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Sir Roger Norrington.

Ulf Schneider was a scholarship student of the "Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes" and was awarded First Prize at the University Competition of the Berlin music academies. He also is laureate of the "Kunstpreis" granted by the city of Kassel, Germany.

With the Trio Jean Paul, he won First Prizes at the international chamber music competitions in Osaka and Melbourne as well as at the Deutsche Musikwettbewerb in Bonn. Furthermore, the trio was honored with various special awards and has performed concert tours through Japan and Australia.

Ulf Schneider is Artistic Director of the Musiktage Salzgitter. He is dedicated to the project Rhapsody-in-School and is actively involved with the PE-Förderungen für Musik Mannheim, an association supporting outstanding young musicians.

He plays a Carlo Giuseppe Testore violin from 1725, generously loaned by a private collector in Germany through the offices of Violin Assets GmbH.