

Michael Wendeborg, Conductor/Piano

Biography

Michael Wendeborg's interpretation was gripping, with sharp and accurate dotted notes and impactful climaxes, yet also with room for rest and contemplation.

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Classical repertoire – from Bach to Schoenberg – comes to conductor and pianist Michael Wendeborg with just as much ease as his dedicated work with new music. In 2020/21 and 2021/22 he acted as Chief Conductor Opera at the Bühnen Halle (Saale), where he held the position of “Erster Kapellmeister” since 2016. Most recently he conducted first performances of Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde*, and Paderewski’s *Manru* among others.

Michael Wendeborg has conducted renowned orchestras and ensembles including the Staatskapelle Berlin, WDR Symphony Orchestra, SWR Symphony Orchestra, Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin, Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra Ljubljana, Klangforum Wien, Ensemble Modern, Remix Ensemble Porto, Ensemble intercontemporain, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group and the Basel Sinfonietta. He has made guest appearances at the Lucerne Festival, Munich Biennale, Beethovenfest Bonn, Bregenz Festival, Venice Biennale, ECLAT Festival Stuttgart, Ultraschall Berlin Festival, Acht Brücken Festival Cologne and Klangspuren Schwaz as well as at Wien Modern. He served as Music Director of the Ensemble Contrechamps in Geneva from 2011 to 2018.

In the 2022/23 season, Michael Wendeborg gave his debut with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra with Debussy’s *Jeux* and the world premiere of Isabel Mundry’s Viola Concerto with Nils Mönkemeyer, his house debut at the Frankfurt Opera with the world premiere of Vito Zuraj’s *Blühen* as well as conducted a portrait of the composer with the Ensemble Modern. He also returned to the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra in Tallinn to conduct works by Chaya Czernowin, Jüri Reinverse and Malin Bang as part of the AFEKT Festival. Further he lead concerts in Birmingham, Bremen, and Helsinki. He jumped in for Daniel Barenboim, as a conductor and as a pianist, for a series of concerts with works by Mozart, Boulez and Manoury with the Boulez Ensemble in Berlin and at the Philharmonie de Paris. In the season 2023/24 he will return to the AFEKT festival in Tallinn as well as to Ankara, Bursa, and Ljubljana, and to the WDR symphony orchestra, where he will conduct a world premiere by Simon Steen-Andersen as part of the “Musik der Zeit” series in Cologne.

His opera repertoire ranges from Handel’s *Orlando* to Mozart, Beethoven, Donizetti, Verdi, Bizet, Puccini, Strauss, Wagner, and Britten, and includes numerous world premieres. In 2017 he returned to the Staatsoper Berlin for performances of *Die Zauberflöte* and for a new production of Aribert Reimann’s *Gespensersonate*. In Halle, he conducted Beethoven’s *Fidelio*, Verdi’s *Aida*, Puccini’s *Tosca*, as well as the premieres of Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and Strauss’ *Ariadne auf Naxos*, followed by a new production of an adapted version of Mozart’s *Der Schauspieldirector*.

As a pianist, Michael Wendeborg has won several national and international piano competitions and performed as a soloist at renowned festivals and with prestigious orchestras under conductors such as Jonathan Nott, Marek Janowski, and Daniel Barenboim. From 2000 to 2005 he was a member of the Ensemble intercontemporain and worked closely with György Kurtág and Pierre Boulez. In 2015 he played Boulez’s complete works for piano as part of the easter festival at the Staatsoper Berlin and in 2018 at the Boulez Saal. In 2021 a CD production of the complete works for one and two pianos was released on the label bastille musique.

Michael Wendeborg studied piano with Markus Stange, Bernd Glemser, Stefan Litwin and Benedetto Lupo, and conducting in Toshiyuki Kamioka’s masterclass in Saarbrücken. During this time, he worked as Toshiyuki Kamioka’s assistant at the Wuppertaler Bühnen. After graduating, Michael Wendeborg held positions at the Nationaltheater Mannheim, Lucerne Theatre, and the Staatsoper Berlin, where he assisted Daniel Barenboim and guest conductors such as Pierre Boulez and Sir Simon Rattle.

Season 2023/24

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