

## Michael Wendeberg, Conductor/Piano

### Biography

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

Mitteldeutsche Zeitung, 19/02/2020

Classical repertoire - from Bach to Schoenberg - comes to conductor and pianist Michael Wendeberg 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 holds 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 Wendeberg 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 Schwarz 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 Wendeberg will give 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 conduct a portrait of the composer with the Ensemble Modern. He will also return to the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra in Tallin to conduct works by Chaya Czernowin, Jüri Reinverse and Malin Bang as part of the AFEKT Festival. Further he will lead concerts in Ankara, Bursa and Helsinki.

His opera repertoire ranges from Handel's *Orlando* to Mozart, Beethoven, Donizetti, Verdi, Bizet, Puccini, Strauss, 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 Schauspieldirektor* in the current season.

As a pianist, Michael Wendeberg 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 appeared with Boulez's complete works for piano as part of celebrations at the Staatsoper Berlin and in 2018 at the Boulez Saal, in 2021 a CD production of the complete sonatas was released on the label bastille musique.

Michael Wendeberg studied piano with Markus Stange, Bernd Glemser, 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 Wendeberg 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 2022/23

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