

Christoph Ess | horn player

Christoph Eß is regarded as one of the leading horn players of his generation. In addition to his position as principal horn of the Bamberg Symphony, he is a prizewinner of numerous international competitions and appears regularly as a sought-after soloist and chamber musician. From 2017 to 2020 he was Professor of Horn at the Lübeck University of Music and, in 2021, was appointed to the same position at the University of Music Würzburg. Since 2024 he has also served as Artistic Director of the horn festival *hornissimo* in Staufen im Breisgau.

He began his musical training with Peter Hoefs at the Tübingen Music School and continued his studies with Prof. Christian Lampert and Wolfgang Wipfler at the conservatories in Basel and Stuttgart, where he graduated with distinction in June 2008.

With his expressive and distinctive playing, Christoph Eß quickly gained attention and has been awarded prizes at numerous national and international competitions. He is a laureate of the Klassik-Festival-Ruhr, the "1° Concorso Internazionale per Corno di Sannicandro di Bari," the ARD International Music Competition in Munich, and the "Richard Strauss Competition." In 2007 he won the renowned "Prague Spring" International Music Competition, receiving no fewer than seven special prizes. The following year he was awarded the WEMAG Soloist Prize at the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival, and in 2009 he received a scholarship from the German Music Competition. In 2011 he was accepted into the "Orpheum Foundation for the Advancement of Young Soloists" in Zurich, where he subsequently made his debut at the Tonhalle Zurich. In 2021 he received the Punto Award from the International Horn Society, for which he serves as the German representative.

As a soloist, Eß has appeared with leading orchestras such as the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Bamberg Symphony, the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the chamber orchestras of Munich, Stuttgart, and Salzburg. He made his debut at the Berlin Philharmonie in 2007 with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin. In the 2017/2018 season he was Artist in Residence with the Neubrandenburg Philharmonic and recorded all of Mozart's horn concertos with the Folkwang Chamber Orchestra Essen for the GENUIN classics label. In October 2024, the Strauss horn concertos with the Aachen Symphony Orchestra were released on Naxos. Highlights of the upcoming season include performances with the Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, the Hofer Symphoniker, and the Rheinische Philharmonie Koblenz. He has collaborated with conductors such as Paavo Järvi, Jonathan Nott, Michael Sanderling, Christopher Ward, and Christoph Poppen.

Numerous CD and radio productions—among others with Sony Classical, GENUIN classics, Praga Digitals, Bavarian Radio, Deutschlandradio Kultur, Czech Radio, and Swiss Radio DRS—document the breadth of his artistic work.

Eß is equally devoted to chamber music in a wide variety of formations. As the founder of the horn quartet *german hornsound*, established in 2010, and in collaboration with artists such as Christian Zacharias, Albrecht Mayer, the Fauré Quartet, the Zemlinsky Quartet, Quatuor Ébène, Boris Kusnezow, and Viviane Hagner, he performs regularly at major international music festivals.

A scholarship holder of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation and the German Music Foundation, he has served as principal horn of the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie and the European Union Youth Orchestra. He has also been invited to perform with the Berlin and Munich Philharmonics, the Staatskapellen of Dresden and Berlin, the Bavarian State Opera, the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, and German Brass. Following engagements with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Essen Philharmonic, Christoph Eß has been principal horn of the Bamberg Symphony since 2007.

Christoph Eß
Am Werkkanal 3
D-96047 Bamberg

+49-176-23594920
info@christophess.de
www.christophess.de