

## **Biography Martin Schmeding**

Being honoured with the Echo Classic (2009) and the Professor of the Year (2017) award, Martin Schmeding is today one of the most sought-after international concert organists and organ teachers.

Born in 1975 in Minden, Westphalia, he studied church music, music education, recorder and organ (soloist diploma in both instruments), choir and orchestra conducting, harpsichord, and music theory in Hanover, Amsterdam and Düsseldorf. Through his teachers Ulrich Bremsteller, Lajos Rovatkay, Dr. Hans van Nieuwkoop, Jacques van Oortmerssen and Jean Boyer he is part of the important German organ tradition of Karl Straube, Guenther Ramin and Helmut Walcha, as well as of the French tradition and the Dutch historical organ movement.

During his studies, he received a scholarship from the fund of the German people, the oldest and most important foundation of the German state.

After receiving eight first prizes in the federal competition for young musicians, he was a prizewinner in many competitions, among them the Mendelssohn Bartholdy in Berlin, the Pachelbel in Nuremberg, the Ritter in Magdeburg, the Böhm in Lüneburg, the Competition of the German music universities in Hannover/Mannheim, the German music competition in Berlin/Bonn, the European competition for young organists in Ljubljana/Slovenia, and the Musica antiqua in Bruges/Belgium. He was a finalist in the ARD competition in Munich in 1999. In addition, he has received many grants and scholarships. In 1999, he was awarded the cultural grant from the state of Lower Saxony.

Martin Schmeding was choir director and organist of the Nazareth Church in Hanover from 1997 until 1999. Between 1999 and 2004 he filled two of the most important posts for church musicians in Germany: In 1999, he was appointed as the successor of KMD Prof. Oskar Gottlieb Blarr at the Neander Church in Düsseldorf. As titular organist at the Kreuzkirche in Dresden, a place with a more than 700 year old tradition of church music, Martin Schmeding worked from 2002 until 2004.

After teaching in Hannover, Leipzig, Weimar, and Dresden, he taught as organ professor at the University of Music in Freiburg from 2004-2015 as the successor of Prof. Zsigmond Szathmáry, where he was also the chair of the church-music and organ department.

In addition, Schmeding worked as a guest professor at the University of Music Luzern (Switzerland) from 2014-16. Since autumn 2015 he holds the Chair of Artistic Organ Playing at the University of Music and Theatre „Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy“ Leipzig, alongside the directorship of the „European Organ Academy“. He was appointed Visiting Guest Professor at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in 2018.

His students from all over the world are prizewinners of well renowned international competitions, e.g. the Bach Wettbewerb Leipzig, ARD competition Munich, Pachelbel competition Nuremberg, Tokyo Musashino organ competition, Buxtehude competition Lubeck, Bach competition Wiesbaden, Schmidt competition Kitzbuhel, to name only a few. Many of them work as organists and organ teachers on important church and university positions.

Martin Schmeding has made numerous radio and CD recordings, among them the complete organ music of F. Schmidt, J. Brahms, F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy, as well as the first recordings on a period instrument of the complete music for pedal piano by Robert Schumann and of the organ version of the Goldberg Variations by J. S. Bach on a baroque instrument. In 2009, 2017 and 2020 he was awarded the Prize of the German Record Critics. He has written for many publications and has given concerts as a soloist, chamber musician and with orchestras all over the world, including at important festivals such as the Bach-Fest in Leipzig, the Bachwochen Thuringen, the Chamber-Music Platform in Brunswick, the Organ Days in Merseburg, the Music Days of Lower Saxony, the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival, and the Schleswig-Holstein Festival.

Martin Schmeding is also active as a guest-lecturer at master-classes at home and abroad, publishes articles and music editions for important magazines and publishers, e.g. Schott, Carus, Herder and Butz. Engagements as a juror at competitions (e.g. Bach-Wettbewerb Leipzig, Boston Bach Competition, Schnitger Competition Alkmaar, Pachelbel competition Nuremberg, Silbermann competition Freiberg, Ritter competition Magdeburg), conductor and composer complete his artistic career.

In 2021 he finished his PhD (Dr. phil.) „summa cum laude“ at the University of Music „Carl Maria von Weber“ Dresden.