

Christian Zacharias | Biography

Conductor and Piano



"Under the direction of pianist and conductor Christian Zacharias, the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra imbued the piece with a special radiance. There was that delicate tremor that Schubert's music demands, but also a vast expanse, a deep breath, and an expressive grandeur that made one forget that this work is often referred to as the "Little Symphony." The third movement, the Scherzo, was particularly brilliant."

Zacharias is a narrator among the conductors and pianists of his generation. In each of his elaborate, detailed and clearly articulated interpretations, it's clear what is important to him: Zacharias is interested in what lies behind the notes.

With a unique combination of integrity and individuality, brilliant linguistic expressiveness, deep musical understanding, and a sure artistic instinct, paired with his charismatic and engaging artistic personality, Christian Zacharias has established himself not only as a world-class conductor and pianist, but also as a musical thinker. Numerous acclaimed concerts with the world's best orchestras and outstanding conductors as well as multiple honors and recordings characterize his international career.

Since 2021/2022 Christian Zacharias is Associate Conductor of the Orchestre National Auvergne Rhône-Alpes. He is also still closely connected to the Orquesta Ciudad de Granada after having been their Principal Guest Conductor. Zacharias has also been associated for many years with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and the Orquesta Sinfonica Do Porto Casa da Musica and regularly invited by the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, the Orchestre National du Capitole du Toulouse, the Frankfurt Opera and Museum Orchestra, the Poznań Philharmonic, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo as well as the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Furthermore, he is a welcome guest at the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra as well as the National Orchestra of Lyon.

Piano recitals, rare highlights of his schedule, have taken him to major European cities—including Paris, London, Madrid, and Frankfurt—as well as to prestigious festivals such as the Schubertiade, La Roque d'Anthéron and Piano aux Jacobins in Toulouse. In addition to recitals, Zacharias offers his audience impressive musical insights in piano lectures on topics such as *From Couperin to Poulenc*, *From Madrigals to Edith Piaf*, *Why does Schubert sound like Schubert?* or *Haydn, a Creation from Nothing?*.

A particular fondness of opera has led to him directing productions of Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* and *The Marriage of Figaro*, as well as Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène*. The production of Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which he conducted at the Opéra Royal de Wallonie in Liège, was awarded the *Prix de l'Europe Francophone* 2014 by the Association Professionnelle de la Critique Théâtre, Musique et Danse in Paris.

Since 1990, the following films have been produced featuring Christian Zacharias: *Domenico Scarlatti in Seville*, *Robert Schumann - the Poet Speaks* (both for INA, Paris), *Zwischen Bühne und Künstlerzimmer* (for WDR-arte), *De B comme Beethoven à Z comme Zacharias* (for RTS, Switzerland) and the complete Beethoven piano concertos (for SSR-arte).

The musical work of Zacharias has been honored many times, for example with the *Midem Classical Award Artist of the Year* 2007, the *Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* of the French state and a tribute from Romania for his services to culture. In addition, he was appointed a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in 2016, and in 2017 received an honorary doctorate from the University of Gothenburg.

Numerous internationally acclaimed recordings were made during his time as Principal Conductor of the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra. Particularly noteworthy are the recordings of all Schumann symphonies and the complete Mozart piano concertos which were awarded the *Diapason d'Or de l'Année*, *Choc du Monde de la Musique* and *ECHO KLASSIK*. In 2022/2023 two solo albums with sonatas by Haydn as well as partitas and suites by Bach were finally released by MDG after a long pause.