



Maurice Steger | Biography Recorder & Conductor

"Haydn, because he is underestimated, is a composer that very few "can" perform. Maurice Steger could. Haydn's "wit" (in the sense of ingenious, sophisticated, even enlightened) was in the best of hands."

Steger is dubbed the "*Paganini*" and "*magician of the recorder*" or "*the world's leading recorder player*". In order to live up to such high expectations, also as a conductor, one requires not only astonishing

technique, but also charisma, intellect and a special sensitivity for music. Maurice Steger has been proving all of this to his audiences, inspiring with his intense tone and unstoppable energy in various concert formats all over the world.

As a soloist, conductor or both at once, he regularly performs with the top period instrument ensembles, such as the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, La Cetra Barockorchester Basel, Venice Baroque Orchestra, The English Concert, Il Pomo D'oro, and I Barocchisti. He also performs with leading modern orchestras such as the Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, the Spanish Radio Symphony Orchestra, or the NDR Radiophilharmonie.

Chamber music plays a notable role in the richly varied spectrum of Maurice Steger's artistic endeavors. With fellow musicians and friends such as Hille Perl, Avi Avital, Núria Rial, Dorothee Oberlinger, Sebastian Wienand or Sol Gabetta he dedicates himself to a continuously updated repertoire of Early Music in music centers such as London, Vienna, Zurich, Dresden, Basel, Shanghai, Sevilla, Madrid, Hamburg and at festivals like Gstaad, Klosters, Ascona, Rheingau, Schleswig-Holstein, Úbeda and Verbier. In the last years Maurice Steger played several premieres of new works such as *Sei gutes Muts* by Iris ter Schiphorst with the Kuss Quartet.

Maurice Steger loves the interaction between different cultures and getting to know other ways of working and interpretive approaches, acting as a concert artist, teacher and juror, not only in Europe but throughout the world. He was also the first recorder player from the West to perform with the Traditional Taipei Chinese Orchestra. He has toured Asia as well as Australia with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Violons du Roy from Canada and the Malaysia Philharmonic Orchestra, among others. In 2026, he will once again visit the latter - Kuala Lumpur, Québec, and Montréal - for joint projects.

His commitment to musical education is also highly important to him: besides the invention of the character of *Tino Flautino* in order to encourage young children to playfully engage with classical music, he leads various master classes as well as holding the directorship of the Gstaad Baroque Academy at the Menuhin Festival Gstaad, from 2013-2025. In 2026, he will be in charge of a new Baroque Academy at classicAscona.

Through his own infinite thirst for knowledge, he succeeds time and again to show how much there is still to be discovered about Baroque music. For example, on his recording *Souvenirs*, he presented works that he discovered in the private library of Count Harrach in Naples. For this he was awarded the *ECHO-Klassik*. He is also a laureate of the *Diapason D'Or* and the *Karajan Prize*, among others. His album *Baroque Twitter* with the Basel Chamber Orchestra and the singer Núria Rial was inspired by birdsong. *Mr. Handel's Dinner* with La Cetra reflects on Handel's opera performances in London and especially their intermissions. In autumn 2023, Steger's very personal *Tribute to Bach*, also recorded with La Cetra, was released with Berlin Classics.

One wonders sometimes where Maurice Steger gets all this energy that helped him support the comeback of the recorder, as *Arte* presented in a documentary *The Recorder: A Comeback*. But when you see how much love for the music, the instrument and the audience he puts into each of his many projects, it becomes clear: Maurice Steger is also carved out of very special wood.