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Manfred Neuman

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1952, Manfred Neuman was trained at the Musikhochschule of Cologne, Germany. Alongside the french horn he studied orchestral conducting with Klaus Pawassar and Siegfried Köhler, the later Music Director of the Stockholm Opera. As a horn player he worked at the Cologne Opera (Gürzenich Orchester) for several years and became a member of the Saarbrücken Radio Symphony in 1975.

In 1988 Manfred Neuman was named Music Director of the Saarlouis Symphony Orchestra (South-West Germany), a tenure which will end in 2007.

Neuman conducted his first public concert in 1973. Since then he was invited as a guest conductor with numerous german and international Symphony Orchestras, conducting more than 400 major works of the symphonic and operatic repertoire.

Amongst other orchestras he appeared with the Westphalian Symphony Orchestra, the Classical Philharmonic Bonn, the Siegerland Orchestra, the Philharmonia Hungarica, the Folkwang Orchestra Essen, the Orquesta Sinfonica de Monterrey (Mexico) and the Orquesta Sinfonica de Cuenca (Ecuador).

As of 1989, he regularly worked with the Xalapa Symphony (Mexico). His programs featured renowned international soloists and first performances of works by Berg, Hindemith, Strauss, Mahler, Shostakovich, Poulenc and Kodaly.

In 1996 he spent three weeks working with the China National Symphony Orchestra in Beijing. In March 2006 Neuman was invited to conduct the Unam Philharmonic Orchestra in Mexico-City for two concerts broadcast on national radio and television.

Manfred Neuman is at present a recording artist for the Naxos Label.

The conductor's CD-recordings include a Tschaikowsky-production with the Berlin Symphony Orchestra (Bayer Records).

In 1997, a CD with french singer Romain Didier conducted by Neuman (Warner Records) was awarded the prestigious "Grand Prix du Disque" in Paris.

In 2002 Neuman conducted the Bavarian Radio Orchestra in Munich for a recording of 20th Century french music for Saxophone and Orchestra with works by Debussy, Tomasi, Caplet, Constant and Absil, including four world premiere recordings (Audite Records).

"This is absolutely the best recorded performance of Debussy's "Rhapsody" that I ever heard" wrote the critic of American Record Guide on Neuman's recording with soloist Dominique Tassot and the Munich Radio Orchestra.

His latest two CDs with the german SWR-Radio Orchestra were released in 2004 and 2006 by the Naxos Label and feature first recordings of orchestral works by german neoromantic composer Thomas Schmidt-Kowalski, whose 2nd and 3rd Symphony Neuman premiered with the Philharmonia Hungarica. The entire recording of Schmidt-Kowalski's orchestral compositions is currently in work.

In June of 2007 Neuman appeared with the German Philharmonic Orchestra Rhineland-Palatinate and renowned Bandoneón Soloist Lothar Hensel with a program entirely dedicated to symphonic Tango music. The concert was live-broadcast by German Public Radio (Deutschlandradio Berlin) and a CD-recording will be soon released.

Manfred Neuman has been living in France for many years now.

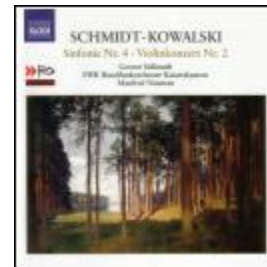
Discography

Thomas Schmidt-Kowalski (*1949)
Sinfonie Nr. 4 - Violinkonzert Nr. 2

SWR Rundfunkorchester Kaiserslautern
Manfred Neuman, Conductor
Gernot Süßmuth, Violin

Release year: 2006

NAXOS
Ref.: 8.551246



Thomas Schmidt-Kowalski (*1949)
Sinfonie Nr. 3 - Cellokonzert

SWR Rundfunkorchester Kaiserlautern
Manfred Neuman, Conductor
Nikolai Schneider, Violoncello

Release year: 2003

NAXOS
Ref.: 8.551212



French Saxophone 20th Century Music for Saxophone and Orchestra

Tomasi, Caplet, Absil, Constant, Debussy
(Four World Premiere recordings)

Munich Radio Orchestra
Manfred Neuman, Conductor
Dominique Tassot, Alto Saxophone

Release year: 2003

AUDITE
Ref.: 97.500



Francis Lemarque

Les Rues de mon Quartier
(French Chanson)

Studio strings conducted by Manfred Neuman

Release year: 1999

FLARENASCH
Distribution Arcade Music Company
Ref.: 3026622



Romain Didier

En Concert
(French Chanson)

Studio strings conducted by Manfred Neuman

Release year: 1997
Awarded Grand Prix du Disque, Paris 1997

FLARENASCH
Distribution Arcade Music Company
Ref.: 3020182



Peter Tschaikowsky

Klavierkonzert Nr. 1 b-moll OP.23

George Gershwin

Rhapsody In Blue

Berlin Symphony Orchestra
Saar Wind Orchestra
Manfred Neuman, Conductor
Wolfram Schmitt-Leonardy, Piano

Release year: 1999

EBS RECORDS
Ref.: 6099



Critical Acclaim

"Here are two artists at work and making music – and, in Tschaikowsky, an Orchestra that follows with vitality and variety – guiding, with temperament and surprising solutions in detail, this old battlehorse-concert across well-known territory."

Peter Cossé, **Klassik Heute** (Germany), on a recording of Tschaikowsky's Piano-Concerto in B flat- minor featuring german pianist Wolfram Schmitt-Leonardy with Manfred Neuman conducting the Berlin Symphony Orchestra.

*"Enthusiatic bravos ... and minutelong acclaim ... for an exemplary reading of Gustav Mahler's "Song of the Earth", first performed in 1911 ...
A conductor with untiring body language, precise indication, inspiring and fascinating alert intelligence."*

S. Dettweiler, **Die Rheinpfalz** (Germany), on a performance of Mahler's „Song of the Earth“, broadcast on german public radio.

"Manfred Neuman proved to be a prudent, precise and resolute conductor, and, in Beethoven's Piano Concerto, a reliable accompanist."

Werner Matthes, **Nordwest-Zeitung** (Germany), on a concert with the Philharmonia Hungarica. Also published in **Das Orchester** (Germany) and **Neue Musik Zeitung** (Germany).

"After the interval followed Shostakovich's Symphony No. 9 op. 70, a difficult work with a rich orchestration..."

In the first movement we noticed outstanding playing of the brass and woodwind sections... I would like to stress the perfect coordination of the conductor and his orchestra in all those irregular rhythms, characteristic for this composer."

Arnulfo Canales Flores, **El Norte** (Mexico), on Manfred Neuman conducting the Monterey Symphony performing works by Liszt, Haydn and Schostakovich.

"Schmidt-Kowalski knows how to treat forms without seeking experiments. His music sounds somehow familiar but not worn-out..."

Gernot Süssmuth as violin soloist remains an objective defender of the composition, just as Manfred Neuman at the conductor's desk of the Kaiserslautern Radio Orchestra. Both go well together, striving for thrilling dialogue.

The Symphony... op. 96 reveals more orchestral passion and allows the conductor to develop a symphonic profile."

Jörg Loskill, **Das Orchester** (Germany), on the Naxos recording of Thomas Schmidt-Kowalski's Symphony Nr. 4 and Violin Concerto Nr. 2.

"This release has four works that are offered in their original orchestral guise for the first time on CD. But what makes it so important is the inclusion of the massive, growling, brazen concerto of Henri Tomasi (1901-71) ... But now we have it, there is so great cause for rejoicing, because this performance should set the standard for many years..."

And for those so inclined, this is absolutely the best recorded performance of Debussy's awful "Rhapsody" that I have ever heard. The bold, snarling brass and warm vibrant strings almost made me like that piece..."

It has some moments, and when played like this, a lot of excitement.... really wonderful.

The Munich Radio Orchestra sounds here for all of the world like the best group in the history of recordings."

Ritter, **American Record Guide** (USA), on the Audite album "French Saxophone", featuring Saxophone Soloist Dominique Tassot with Manfred Neuman conducting the Munich Radio Orchestra.

"Finally comes the Debussy. It is all plush and dripping honey, gurgling dances and warm dawns. The orchestra score a wondrous warmth at 2:19.

I really liked this collection. It is well played in every department.

The selection reflects an audacity and valour rare in today's industry."

Rob Barnett, **musicweb international** (UK) on the Audite album "French Saxophone", featuring Saxophone Soloist Dominique Tassot with Manfred Neuman conducting the Munich Radio Orchestra.

"Such atmospheric and dense sounds....with the Saarlouis Symphony Orchestra. Here the Maestro with his acrobatic baton chose the right degree between romantic oppressiveness and cool elegance."

Stefan Uhrmacher, **Saarbrücker Zeitung** (Germany), on a concert with french music performed with the Saarlouis Symphony.