

CREDIT SUISSE Young Artist Award 2010

Nicolas ALTSTAEDT, cellist

Nicolas Altstaedt was born into a Franco-German family in 1982. He was one of the last pupils of Boris Pergamenchikov in Berlin, where he then continued his studies with Eberhard Feltz. Recent highlights include appearances with the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra under Sir Neville Marriner, the Stuttgart RSO under Sir Roger Norrington, the Haydn Austro-Hungarian Orchestra under Adam Fischer, the Zurich and Stuttgart chamber orchestras under Dennis Russel Davies, the Winterthur Collegium Musicum under Mario Venzago, the Simon Bolivar Orchestra, the Bamberg Symphony, the Kremerata Baltica, the Tapiola Sinfonietta, and the New Zealand, Melbourne, Berlin and Helsinki RSOs. He is one of the few European artists to be accepted into the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society of New York.

Among the artists with whom Altstaedt has concertized are Gidon Kremer, Daniel Hope, Yuri Bashmet, Alexander Lonquich, Jörg Widmann, Emmanuel Pahud, the Quatuor Ebène, and the composers Thomas Adès, Sofia Gubaidulina, Lera Auerbach, HK Gruber, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, and Moritz Eggert, all of whom have composed works for him and taken part in the premières. He has worked together with Wolfgang Rihm and Wilhelm Killmayer and is regularly invited to perform at the major concert venues of Europe, the United States, Australia, and Asia, including the Berlin and Cologne Philharmonies, Laeiszhalle (Hamburg), Herkules Hall (Munich), the Zurich Tonhalle, the Paris Chatelet, Carnegie Hall (New York), Suntory Hall (Tokyo), the Seoul Art Center, and Sejong Center (Seoul).

Altstaedt has already won a number of international prizes, including the Landgrave of Hesse Prize from the Kronberg Academy (2004), the first prize at the German Music Competition and the Domnick International Cello Competition in Stuttgart (2005), first prize at the Adam International Cello Competition in New Zealand (2006), and the Borletti Buitoni Fellowship (2009). He makes regular guest appearances at the festivals in Lockenhaus, Jerusalem, Bad Kissingen, the Ruhr Piano Festival, Schleswig-Holstein, Rheingau, Les Musiques (Basle), and the Ludwigsburg Palace Festival. In summer 2008 he gave his successful début at the Salzburg Festival.

In 2006 Altstaedt gave the Swiss première of Georg Friedrich Haas's Cello Concerto with the Basle Symphony Orchestra. His début CD, released by Genuin, was voted "Strad Selection of the Month" in December 2007. His most recent recording of the Haydn concertos, with the Potsdam Chamber Academy for the Genuin label, and his recording of the Schumann, Tchaikovsky and Gulda concertos for Claves (five Diapasons) have been ecstatically received by the international press. Another of his CDs, scheduled for release in 2010, contains première recordings of works by Gabriel Pierné, Vincent d'Indy, and Nadia Boulanger.

Nicolas Altstaedt plays a cello built by Nicolas Lupot (Paris, 1821) on loan from the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben.