



**MICHAEL FORM** was born in Mainz (Germany) in 1967. He graduated twice in 1990 and 1992 «summa cum laude» at the *Hochschule für Musik Köln* went on to study at the *Rotterdams Conservatorium* and subsequently specialised in medieval, Renaissance and baroque music at the *Schola Cantorum Basiliensis* (Basel/Switzerland). Apart from his interest in Early Music, he found one of his most eminent teachers in the Romanian conductor Sergiu Celibidache. Finally in 2016 he obtained a DAS (Diploma in Advanced Studies) as a classical conductor at Berne University of Arts (Switzerland).

Michael Form was granted scholarships from *Heinrich-Strobel-Stiftung* (SWF, Baden-Baden), *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*, *Cité Internationale des Arts* (Paris) and *Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst DAAD*. As a flute player he was awarded at important competitions such as *Internationaler Musikwettbewerb der ARD* (Munich), *Concours de musique contemporaine ICARE 88* (Paris) and *Concours Musica Antiqua* (Bruges).

He regularly performs at prestigious European festivals such as *Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival*, *Rheingau Musik Festival*, *Internationale Händel-Festspiele Halle und Karlsruhe*, *Mosel Musikfestival*, *Villa Musica Mainz* (Germany), *Festival Oude Muziek Utrecht* (Holland), *Festival van Vlaanderen*, *Laus Polyphonie Antwerpen* (Belgium), *Les Musiques Basel*, *Lucerne Festival*, *Freunde Alter Musik Basel* (Switzerland), *Festwochen der Alten Musik Innsbruck* (Austria), *Brixner Initiative Musik und Kirche*, *Musica e Poesia a San Maurizio*

Milano (Italy), *Automne Musical au Château de Versailles*, *Festival de Musique de la Chaise-Dieu*, *Festival Baroque de Pontoise*, *Rencontres de Musique Médiévale de Thoronet*, *Bach à Silvacane* - La Roque d'Anthéron, *Theatre de la Ville, Paris*, *Bibliothèque Nationale de France*, *Opéra National de Bordeaux* (France), *Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian* (Lisbon), *Concentus Moraviae* (Czech Republic). He works together with famous artists and groups such as the **TAVERNER PLAYERS** (Andrew Parrott), the **ENSEMBLE GILLES BINCHOIS** (Dominique Vellard) and **CAFÉ ZIMMERMANN**. For the last 20 years he has been performing highly acclaimed duo recitals with the German harpsichordist Dirk Börner. His live concerts have been recorded by almost all German radio stations. His CDs for *Raumklang Musikproduktion*, *Alpha* and *Edition Ambronay*, have received several awards such as *Choc du Monde de la Musique* and *Diapason d'or* for his Album «Bach Remixed».

Currently Michael Form works chiefly as a conductor with his ensemble **LES FLAMBOYANTS**, which had its début in 1997 and has been performing since then all over Europe and in New Zealand. The group is specialised in the neglected instrumental repertoire of the Renaissance era around 1500, however, it had its first big success in 1998 with a large tour dedicated to the 900<sup>th</sup> birthday of Hildegard von Bingen. 2007 Michael Form and Dirk Börner founded the ensemble **AUX PIEDS DU ROY** in order to put into practice the results of an extant research project for the *Schweizerische Nationalfonds* on French baroque *Belle Danse*.

Michael Form has a considerable reputation as a teacher: already at the age of 21 he received a lectureship at the *Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz*, from 2000 until 2002 he had been teaching at the *Schola Cantorum Basiliensis*, and from 2004 until 2007 at the *Musikhochschule Freiburg* (Germany). Since 2003 he is professor at the *Hochschule der Künste Berne* (Switzerland). He has been an invited teacher at the *Conservatorio superior de música de Canarias* (Spain) and has given master classes at the *Meistersinger-Konservatorium Nürnberg* (Germany), at the *Anton Bruckner Universität Linz* (Austria), at the *Conservatory of Sofia* (Bulgaria), at the *Conservatoire national supérieur musique et danse Lyon* (France), at the *Universidad de Alicante*, at the *Festival de Música Antigua de Gijón* (Spain).

In 2002 Michael Form started a second career as a conductor. After having directed the baroque orchestra of the *Schola Cantorum Basiliensis* for several years, emphasising on a new approach to French orchestra music as well as experimenting with historical conducting techniques, he was appointed to conduct the orchestra of the *FIMA Urbino*, the biggest Early Music Festival in Italy. He had his debut as an opera conductor 2004 in Lausanne with «Les Indes Galantes» by Jean-Philippe Rameau, a production which turned out to be a remarkable success. Subsequently, Michael Form conducted not less than 160 opera performances in Europe and Latin America. From 2006 until 2011, he may be considered having been the central artistic figure at the festival *Winter in Schwetzingen*: Several German first performances of operas by Antonio Vivaldi have been rewarded with big applause by the audience as well as by the international press. In 2007, Michael Form conducted the American first

performance of Vivaldi's recently discovered opera «Motezuma» at the *Teatro de la Ciudad* in Mexico City coproduced by the *Luzerner Theater*.

Subsequently, he was invited as a guest conductor and soloist by the **FOLKWANG KAMMERORCHESTER ESSEN**, the **NIEDERSÄCHSISCHE STAATSPHILHARMONIE** Hannover, the **NDR RADIO-PHILHARMONIE** the **MÜNCHNER OPERNFESTSPIELE**, the **BADISCHE STAATSKAPELLE**, the **OLDENBURG STATE ORCHESTRA**, the **OPERN- UND MUSEUMSORCHESTER FRANKFURT**, the **DEUTSCHE HÄNDEL SOLISTEN**, the **PHILHARMOISCHES ORCHESTER DER STADT HEIDELBERG** (Germany), the **LUZERNER SINFONIEORCHESTER** and the **ORCHESTRE DE CHAMBRE DE GENÈVE** (Switzerland).

In 2012 Michael Form had his debut at the *Internationale Händel-Festspiele Karlsruhe*: Handel's opera «Alessandro» was a great success, it has been repeated the following year and issued as a live recording for Pan Classics. In 2015 und 2016 Handel's early opera «Teseo» was produced at the same festival. In 2013 Michael Form conducted at the Oper Frankfurt Emilio de' Cavalieri's «Rappresentatione di Anima, et di Corpo» together with the first performance of «Fulgur Harmoniae» by the Austrian composer Klaus Lang, a work commissioned by the Frankfurt opera house. As well the scenic as the musical realisation of both works have been praised as the best production of the season.

In 2010 Michael Form found his own orchestra on period instruments, the **ORCHESTRE ATLANTE**, which is dedicated to the research and performance of late baroque and classical repertory. One of its highlight so far was a gala concert with the famous italian soprano Roberta Invernizzi. Since 2014 he is collaborating as principal guest conductor with **SIMÓN BOLÍVAR BAROQUE ORCHESTRA** in Caracas (Venezuela), which is one of the most remarkable new ensembles of **EL SISTEMA**.

Already for the 5<sup>th</sup> time Michael Form has been conducting the **MADRIGALISTAS DE BELLAS ARTES**, the famous chamber choir of the Mexican National Opera. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 he has been elected to direct a concert broadcasted live by the Mexican television commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the big earthquake in Mexico City.

January 2019