BIOGRAPHY

Lena Neudauer

“Today Lena Neudauer is a much sought-after artist who delights an international audience with the clarity and strength, the grace and depth of soul of her violin playing.” (Focus)

Lena Neudauer was born in Munich in 1984. She began playing the violin at the age of three, and at 11 she joined Helmut Zehetmair’s class at the Mozarteum Salzburg. She attracted international attention when, aged 15, she not only won the Leopold Mozart Competition in Augsburg but also received almost all of its special prizes. Lena Neudauer studied with Christoph Poppen and with Helmut and Thomas Zehetmair. She has continually developed her openness to and commitment to the most diverse musical directions, for example with Boulez and his “Lucerne Festival Academy” or through her study of historically informed playing technique. Lena Neudauer has a particular affinity for the music of Mozart, which she has studied intensively. In 2010, at the age of 26, Lena Neudauer was appointed Professor of Violin at the Hochschule für Musik Saar, and since 2016 she has held a professorship at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München. In 2023 Lena Neudauer and Julia Fischer deepened their musical and personal friendship, which dates back to early childhood, with a wonderful musical project. The two Munich violinists could be heard in a musical monument: Alfred Schnittke’s Concerto grosso No. 1, written in 1977 for Gidon Kremer and Tatiana Grindenko, performed with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields and the Kammerakademie Potsdam.

Numerous recordings document Lena Neudauer’s clear interpretive ideas: in May 2010 her debut CD was released on Hänssler Classic with the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie conducted by Pablo González. This complete recording of Robert Schumann’s works for violin and orchestra won the International Classical Music Award (ICMA) for best concerto recording in 2011. In 2013 it was followed by a chamber music CD of works by Maurice Ravel (Paul Rivinius, piano, and Julian Steckel, cello). In the following years she released her recording of Mozart’s violin concertos with the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie under Bruno Weil (Hänssler Classic, 2014), as well as Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto in D minor and the Double Concerto with Matthias Kirschnereit (cpo, 2018). For the Beethoven anniversary a CD of Beethoven’s Violin Concerto, Op. 61, and Romances Nos. 1 and 2 was released with the Cappella Aquileia conducted by Marcus Bosch (cpo, 2019). Critics euphorically hailed it as a stellar moment and a new reference recording (among them Pizzicato, Fono Forum and Crescendo), and it received the Supersonic Award.

“Together with Marcus Bosch and the Cappella Aquileia, Lena Neudauer manages to present an interpretation that does justice to historically informed practice as well as to the classical-romantic gesture or a modern reading. (…) No doubt about it, Lena Neudauer is a strong-minded, technically brilliant interpreter who works entirely in the spirit of the composer and his work.” (Pizzicato, 2020)

In chamber music she enjoys an intensive collaboration with, among others, Julian Steckel, Julia Fischer, Matthias Kirschnereit, Herbert Schuch, Lauma Skride, William Youn and Nils Mönkemeyer. Gut-string projects with Tobias Koch show Lena Neudauer to be a versatile chamber musician. Since the ensemble's debut at the Heidelberger Frühling in 2023, Lena Neudauer has performed regularly in a trio with Marianna Shirinyan and Sebastian Klinger. In a soloists' quintet with Silke Avenhaus, Wen Xiao Zheng, Sebastian Klinger and Rick Stotijn, Lena Neudauer devotes herself to special projects. Schubert's "Trout" Quintet, for example, was performed together with the new composition "Ein Forellenteich" (a joint work by Ferran Cruixent, Osmo Tapio Räihälä, Gerald Resch, Johannes Schachtner and Dejan Lazić). The project was funded by the Kultursekretariat NRW and released on CD by CAvi. For the 2025/26 season the ensemble is again receiving funding from the Kultursekretariat NRW for its project "Take 5".

Lena Neudauer has performed with orchestras such as the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern, the MDR Symphony Orchestra, the Munich Chamber Orchestra, the Kammerakademie Potsdam, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the Orchestre National de Belgique, the Orchestre de chambre de Paris, the Russian Philharmonic St Petersburg, the Bern Symphony Orchestra, the Collegium Musicum Basel and the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra, under conductors such as Dennis Russell Davies, Mariss Jansons, Hannu Lintu, Mario Venzago, Wojciech Rajski, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Bruno Weil, Marcus Bosch, Howard Griffiths, Christoph Poppen, Ari Rasilainen, Juri Gilbo, Antonello Manacorda, Andreas Spering, Dirk Kaftan, Daniel Cohen, Nabil Shehata and Pablo González. An intensive collaboration since 2018, with world premieres, play-conduct projects and concert tours as well as a planned CD recording, connects Lena Neudauer with the Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn. Lena Neudauer plays a Lorenzo Guadagnini from 1743 and a Philipp Augustin from 2015.