

Matthias Pintscher sees the two main spheres of his music making – conducting and composing – as entirely complementary. As a composer, Mr. Pintscher’s intrinsic understanding of the score informs his extraordinary ability to communicate on the podium.

In the 2009/2010, Mr. Pintscher makes his Amsterdam debut with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic in the Concertgebouw, as well as his debut with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra in Luzern. Elsewhere he conducts the Frankfurt Radio Orchestra and returns to the Cleveland Orchestra and the BBC Scottish Symphony.

Last season, Mr. Pintscher made several significant debuts, including his New York debut in Carnegie Hall conducting the ACJW Ensemble, in Australia, as artistic director and conductor of the Melbourne Symphony’s 2009 Metropolis Festival, in Italy conducting the Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, and as conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic’s celebration of its former Music Director Claudio Abbado’s 75th Birthday, to which he also contributed a piece composed at Mo. Abbado’s request. Other appearances included the Stuttgart Radio Orchestra in subscription, concluding a season long term as the SWF’s Artist-in-Residence, the ensemble modern on tour in Prague and the Klangforum Wien.

He began his musical training in conducting, studying with Peter Eötvös, but composing took a more prominent role in his life while he was in his early twenties. Soon after, he divided his life equally between the two disciplines of conducting and composing. Naturally noted for his interpretations of contemporary music, he developed an affinity for repertoire of the late 19th and the 20th centuries – for Bruckner, the French romantic masters, Berlioz, Ravel, Debussy, and for the Second Viennese School -- along with a rich variety of other scores of particular significance to the specific periods in the long narrative of music.

He works regularly with contemporary music ensembles like ensemble modern, Klangforum Wien, ensemble contrechamps, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Avanti (Helsinki), remix (Porto) and the Scharoun Ensemble of the Berlin Philharmonic. In 2009, he is artist-in-residence for the Scharoun Ensemble’s 2009 Festival in Zermatt, Switzerland.

Best known in Germany, past engagements have included the Staatskapelle Berlin, DSO Berlin (returning in 10/11), RSO Berlin, NDR Hamburg, MDR Leipzig, RSO Saarbrücken, Museumsorchester Frankfurt, among others. Elsewhere in Europe, he has led the Orchestre Philharmonique de France, Orchestre National de Strasbourg, Orchestre National de Belgique, and BBC Symphony Orchestra in London, Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra and Danish Radio Orchestra. In the United States, he has conducted the Cleveland Orchestra, to which he returns next season.

‘My thinking as a conductor is informed by the process of my own writing,’ he says, ‘and vice versa of course.’ Only in his mid-thirties, he may justly be called the most sought-after German composer of his generation, and his music is championed by some of today’s finest performing artists, orchestras, and conductors.

Matthias Pintscher’s compositions are noted for the delicate sound-world they inhabit, the intricacy of their construction and their precision of expression. Among his most celebrated achievements are his first opera, Thomas Chatterton, commissioned by Dresden Opera, Fünf Orchesterstücke, his first Violin Concerto “en sourdine” for Frank Peter Zimmermann, which has received more than 40 performances since its premiere in 2003, his second opera l’espace dernier premiered at Paris National Opera (Bastille) in 2004, and his cello concerto for Truls Mørk Reflections on Narcissus, which was premiered in Paris in 2006 with Christophe Eschenbach and the Orchestre de Paris. That year also included the premier of a piece for

Emmanuel Pahud (flute) and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, performed at the Lucerne Festival, where Pintscher was Artist in Residence in 2006. His music is frequently performed by orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, NDR Hamburg, London Philharmonic Orchestra Philharmonia London, London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestre de Paris.

Matthias Pintscher makes his home in New York and Paris. His works are published exclusively by Bärenreiter-Verlag. Matthias Pintscher works and records with Kairos, EMI, ECM, Teldec, Wergo, winter & winter and.