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### **Thorsten Encke. Conductor. Composer**

When Thorsten Encke won the Concours de Composition du Festival Pablo Casals de Prades in April 2005 with his composition of a string quartet, it wasn't only the emotional clarity and fine craftsmanship which directly earned him the award, but in particular his deep roots in the music.

*"Encke, with his prize-winning string quartet, has succeeded in creating an impressive work ... the unity and coherence in the composition reveal great maturity."* So said the critics at the conclusion of the competition, going on to attest to the composer's *"compositional vigour and the adamant will for expression"*.

Born 1966 in Göttingen, Thorsten Encke studied violoncello and conducting in Hannover and in Los Angeles, gathered experience in all fields of classical music and performed widely as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. In 1999 he decided to devote himself to a future as a freelance musician. After winning the competition in Prades in 2005, Thorsten Encke shifted his musical focus to the composition and conducting of his own works. Since then he has received numerous commissions, for example from the North German Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and the music festivals in Hitzacker and Heimbach. His works are performed by artists such as Paavo Järvi, Christian Tetzlaff, Sharon Kam, Julian Steckel, the Quartetto di Cremona, the Stockholm Chamber Brass and many other internationally active musicians. Recordings by Radio France musique, Deutschlandfunk, Deutschlandradio Kultur, the North German Radio and Radio Bremen give an impression of the wide spreading of his music.

In 2011, together with some colleagues, Thorsten Encke founded the chamber orchestra **musica assoluta**. As conductor and artistic director of the ensemble, Encke is committed to imparting new ways of listening and presenting impetus-providing concert experiences. Renowned for his unconventional performances and programmes, the ensemble has within a short time earned great recognition among experts and significant public attention.

- 2016** Premiere "Echoes of Paradise" for violin, viola and orchestra  
> Isabelle Faust. Violin, Boris Faust. viola, musica assoluta
- 2016** Premiere "Water Melodies" for viola and orchestra > Peijun Xu. Viola, musica assoluta
- 2015** Premiere of "Foreboding for four horns" > german hornsound
- 2015** Premiere of "Ströme II" for big orchestra > the North German Radio Orchestra
- 2015** Premiere of "vivacity" for 14 solo strings > musica assoluta
- 2014** Premiere of "Hommage" for 14 players > musica assoluta

- 2013** Premiere of "Wanderer" Fantasy for big orchestra > The State Broadcasting Centre of Lower Saxony  
> North German Radio Orchestra
- 2013** Premiere of "Quintett für Streicher" (Commissioned by the North German Radio) > Hamburg
- 2012** Composer in residence at the festival "Spannungen – Musik im Kraftwerk Heimbach"  
> Premiere of "Préludes" for ensemble  
> with Christian Tetzlaff, Volker Jacobsen, Gustav Rivinius, Edicson Ruiz, Sharon Kam, Ishay Lantner, Stefan Rapp, Lauma Skride > Recorded by Deutschlandfunk
- 2012** Premiere of "Ströme" > commissioned by the Philharmonic Orchestra Kiel under the direction of Georg Fritzsche
- 2011** Premiere of "Nyx" > commissioned by the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen under the direction of Paavo Järvi  
> recorded by Deutschlandradio Kultur and Radio Bremen
- 2010** Invitation to participate in the project "Contemporary Musik in Schools" through the Niedersächsische Sparkassenstiftung
- 2010** Premiere of "Un beau brin de fille" > commissioned by the Kammerorchester Sinfonia Concertante Bremen
- 2009** Premiere of "Das atheistische Krokodil" > Staatsoper Hanover
- 2008** Premiere of "Hymnos" > 700th anniversary of the town church of Celle
- 2008** Recipient of a composition grant from the Ministry for Science and Culture, Lower Saxony
- 2008** Premiere of "Drei Intermezzi" > in cooperation with the dance theatre project "KonTakt"
- 2007** Paris Premiere of the "1. Streichquartett" > Théâtre des Champs Élysées Paris
- 2007** Participant in "Response" project of the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen
- 2006** Recipient of a composition grant from the Ministry for Science and Culture, Lower Saxony
- 2006** Participant in "Response" project of the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen
- 2005** 1st Prize at the 1er Concours de Composition du Festival Pablo Casals de Prades, Premiere of the "1. Streichquartett" as part of the festival > further performances in France, Germany, Poland and the USA