

VIOLIN

Mirijam Contzen

→ mirijamcontzen.com



“The Contzen is simply fantastic. She has such a natural access to the music. She is brilliant, crystal clear, big tone, a light hand. Heavenly beautiful.”

Deutschlandfunk, 01.04.2020

Mirijam Contzen is highly esteemed by the international musical world as a soloist, chamber musician, festival director and teacher. Her playing combines grandeur and technical mastery to create compellingly refined interpretations. Mirijam Contzen’s distinctive sound and unique power of expression testify to a profoundly individual musical understanding.

In January 2020 Sony Classical released the two violin concertos of Franz Clement with the WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne under the direction of Reinhard Goebel, with whom Mirijam Contzen has worked intensively over many years. The second violin concerto is a world premiere recording. Franz Clement was the dedicatee of Beethoven’s violin concerto, which itself was composed in response to Clement’s first violin concerto. This album was awarded with the “Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik” as best recording (02/2020) as well as with the OPUS Klassik.

In the 2021/22 season, as part of the *New Mozarts* series for Sony Classical, her new album of the violin concerto in E-flat major KV 365 – a work once attributed to Mozart – was released. It is the first recording of this piece since 1965. Her partners on the album are the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg conducted by Reinhard Goebel. In the 2025/26 season, Mirijam Contzen will perform with, among others, the Neue Philharmonie Westfalen, the Philharmonic Orchestra Kiel, and the Kammerorchester Graubünden.

From the outset of her performing career, Mirijam Contzen has been a staunch advocate of unknown repertoire. In this vein, she recorded the violin concerto *“Et derrière toi marchent les étoiles.”* by Nicolas Bolens with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. For her début CD, which was awarded the Echo Preis in 2001, she chose seldom played works by Hubay, Ferrara and Geszler. Her CD recording with pianist Tobias Bredohl juxtaposes works by the composer Stefan Heucke with sonatas by Hindemith.

She has performed with leading orchestras across the globe, including Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra, Israel Chamber Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Sydney Symphony Orchestra. Conductors with whom she has worked include Iván Fischer, Gianandrea Noseda, Reinhard Goebel, Vladimir Fedosejev, Leif Segerstam, Lothar Zagrosek, RaphaelFrühbeck de Burgos, Christopher Hogwood, Eliahu Inbal, Tomas Netopil, Michael Sanderling, Mario Venzago and Gabriel Feltz.

VIOLIN | Mirijam Contzen

Her passion for chamber music has led to collaborations with highly renowned musicians such as Emmanuel Ax, Joshua Bell, Misha Maisky, Clemens Hagen, Herbert Schuch, Bernd Glemser, Tobias Bredohl and Giovanni Guzzo.

In 2016, Mirijam Contzen was appointed professor of violin at Berlin University of the Arts. Of particular concern to her is the fostering of exceptional young talent on the violin, the commitment to training music teachers, and the interest in learning processes in society.

As of July 2025

We regularly revise our biographies. Please do not use older material.