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LUTZ KIRCHHOF
Baroque Lute
Biography

Lutz Kirchhof was born in Frankfurt am Main. Early in life, he received instruction in the Lute and began his concert activities at the age of 12. He completed a 10-year course of study in the Lute under Lothar Fuchs, a student of Walter Gerwig. In 1972, he won First Prize in the Germany wide “Jugend musiziert” Competition.

Alongside his training as a Lutenist, he studied musicology in Frankfurt. His emphasis was “Historic Lute Literature” He developed a unique playing technique that oriented itself to the technique of the great Lutenists of the 16th and 17th centuries. He passed his exams at the Musikhochschule in Frankfurt with honors.

From 1973 to 1980, Lutz Kirchhof worked in the Frankfurt Studio for Alte Musik. In 1976, he founded his own Consort. This ensemble appeared in countless concerts, radio and TV recordings. His first commercial audio recording was produced in 1980 with the solo works of Sylvius Leopold Weiss. Further recordings followed. These include the Bach works for Lute in the original pitch and Lute tunings. As a guest lecturer, he also taught at the Musicological Institute of the University in Frankfurt.

Private studies led to an exam at the Hochschule für Musik in Frankfurt and at the Royal College of Music in London. The experiences of his teaching and of his concertizing were distilled into a School for the Renaissance and Baroque Lute, upon which Lutz Kirchhof has built his unique system of instruction.

His repertoire, including modern works, encompasses the entire Lute literature. He presents this body of repertoire in his solo concerts. In addition, he also appears with the singer Max van Egmond and Derek Lee Ragin and with various instrumental soloists. His appearances at the Wiener Musiksommer in 1988 and the Schwetzingen Festspiele and “Horizonte-Festival” in Berlin have brought him enormous success. He has been a frequent guest at the “International Guitar Festival” in Berlin.

In 1988, Lutz Kirchhof founded the Frankfurter Lautentage. In subsequent years, with him as Artistic Director, this festival became known as “International Days of the Lute” in cooperation with various radio networks. In 1992, a series documented this festival was produced by Deutsche

Welle and translated into 34 languages and transmitted internationally. In 1990, he founded a circle of researchers in Lute music. Using as a basis the largest collection of original Lute Music and further research sources, they researched the actual and almost lost performance practices of the great Lute eras.

In 1993, Lutz Kirchhof received the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik for his CD, "World Festival of the Lute" with excerpts from the International Days of the Lute.

In 1994, he undertook a tour of Australia where he performed with great success in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and gave master classes at the most important music conservatories there as well as TV and radio appearances.

In 1995, he founded his ensemble, "Liuto Concertate". "Liuto Concertato" is a further element in his solo work and in the production of recordings which feature the Lute as a concertizing instrument.

In 1996, Lutz Kirchhof initiated the founding of the German Lute Society with the European Lute Festival in the Linden Museum in Stuttgart.

In 1997, he released the first-ever recording of the madrigals of Princess Elisabeth of Hessen as well as music from her Lute Notebook. The participants in this groundbreaking release included the German/Ukrainian soprano, Dorothe Miels whom Lutz Kirchhof discovered and who has gone on to a sterling international career and the internationally known Gambist, Martina Kirchhof, with whom he has formed the Duo Kirchhof. This recording of the works of Princess Elisabeth of Hessen appeared on the Sony Classical label in celebration of her 400th birthday.

In May 1997 and for the Hessischen Rundfunk in connection with the Arolser Baroque Festival, he produced a program with Polish solo and ensemble music. For this program, he also performed, among other works, historic Polish songs with the technique of the 16th century.

In 1998, he succeeded in fully reconstructing the historical technique of Lute performance as practiced by the great masters such as John Dowland or Sylvius Leopold Weiss. The use of this technique enables him a greater virtuosity and a broader sound spectrum for the expressive presentation of the music.

In the Bach/Weiss year, 2000, he founded the Festival of the Lute in Dresden with international artists and lecturers. This festival was warmly greeted by the media and has become an annual event. It is the largest Lute Festival in the world. In the same year, Lutz Kirchhof released, for the first time, a CD (*Music for Witches and Alchemists*). The content of this recording is planned according to humanistic principles and for which the musical intentions during the time of the creation of this music form the rationale for the recording.

In 2001 the premiere recording of the Suite in A for Baroque Lute and Violin was released, a partnership between Johann Sebastian Bach and Sylvius Leopold Weiss. The Violin soloist for this production is Giuliano Carmignola.

Since 2002, Lutz Kirchhof has concertized intensively, presenting approximately 100 concerts in year. Through these many performances, he has also optimized the adjustability of the instruments to the requirements of the concert halls and other performance venues.

Whether on tour through Japan, France, Norway, Israel, Tunisia or Germany, such as at the Bachfest in Leipzig or the Moselfestwochen, Lutz Kirchhof has successfully appeared in concert situations with up to 1,000 persons in the audience. Regardless of the circumstances, he has

brought the impressive variety of the Lute and its music to a broad and appreciative public around the world.

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