

Curriculum Vitae

One of the most outstanding violinist personalities of the new generation, Tanja Becker-Bender, born in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1978, received her first violin lessons at the age of six and made her debut as soloist at the *Salzburger Schlosskonzerte* at the age of eleven. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* characterizes her playing as consisting of „completely mature virtuosity and phenomenal intensity of expression and balance”. Her interpretations of the violin concertos by Beethoven and Brahms find as much critical acclaim as those of Bartók, Berg, Stravinsky, Weill, Korngold and Philip Glass; already at age nineteen she premiered the Violin Concerto by Rolf Hempel.

Tanja Becker-Bender performed as soloist under the baton of Kurt Masur, Uriel Segal, Hubert Soudant, James DePreist, Carl St. Clair, Gerd Albrecht, Hartmut Haenchen, Fabio Luisi and Ken-Ichiro Kobayashi, with renowned orchestras such as the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Radio Symphony Orchestra Stuttgart of the SWR, Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra, Berlin Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna and Prague Chamber Orchestras, to name but a few. She also gave concerts at Suntory Hall Tokyo, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall New York, Victoria Hall Geneva, Philharmonie and Konzerthaus Berlin, Laeisz Hall Hamburg, Gewandhaus Leipzig, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Herkulesaal Munich, Konzerthaus Vienna, and is regularly invited to perform at international festivals such as the Chautauqua Institution (NY), Festival of Flanders, Schleswig-Holstein Festival, Beethoven-Fest Bonn, Schwetzingen Festspiele, Rheingau Festival, Kronberg Academy, and Dresdner Musikfestspiele. As a chamber musician she performed with Gidon Kremer, Yuri Bashmet, Boris Pergamenschikow, Arnold Steinhardt, Gustav Rivinius, Eduard Brunner and Stefan Litwin. She also gave recitals in New York, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Paris, London, Brussels, Rome, and Vienna, with programs ranging from cycles of Bach's solo violin works and Beethoven's ten Violin Sonatas to the thematic presentation of contemporary works. In fall 2004, her debut recital at the Musikverein Vienna was enthusiastically received by audience and press. In 2005 she performed Cristóbal Halffter's 2nd Violin Concerto under the baton of the composer himself.

Tanja Becker-Bender was awarded top prizes at the *Concours International d'Execution Musicale* in Geneva and at the international violin competition *Premio Nicolo Paganini* in Genoa, where she additionally received a special prize for the best performance of a contemporary work. Further important distinctions include the *Bunkamura Orchard Hall Award* in Tokyo and first prizes in the international violin competition *Premio Rodolfo Lipizer* in Gorizia, Italy, and in the *Concours International de Musique de Chimay* in Belgium. In 2004, she received the Houston Symphony League Jerry Preist Award, together with an invitation to perform Bartók's Violin Concerto No. 2 with the Houston Symphony Orchestra.

Her development was decisively influenced by early studies with Wilhelm Melcher in the preparatory division of the Music Academy Stuttgart, followed by a year of studies with David Takeno at the Guildhall School in London – immediately after an early high school graduation with distinction. Subsequently, her most important teachers were Günter Pichler at the University of Music in Vienna and Robert Mann at The Juilliard School in New York. Her studies were supported by the *Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes*, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the ZEIT Foundation, and the German Music Foundation.

In 2004 and 2005, she taught at the summer violin program of the European American Musical Alliance at the Ecole Normale de Musique Alfred Cortot in Paris. From fall semester 2006/2007 on, Tanja Becker-Bender was appointed as professor for violin at the University of Music Saar in Saarbrücken (Germany) in the succession of Maxim Vengerov.

Among her projects for 2008, her concerts with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra at Konzerthaus Vienna, with the Bach Orchestra of the Gewandhaus Leipzig at Tonhalle Düsseldorf, with the Zurich Chamber Orchestra at Liederhalle Stuttgart deserve special mention as well as her concerts with the Wuppertal Symphonic Orchestra and the North Nederlands Orchestra Groningen. Highlights in chamber music will be a concert with Bernd Glemser, Daniel Müller-Schott and Dimitri Ashkenazy in Maulbronn Monastery e.g. and a recital in Laeisz Hall in Hamburg with pianist Oliver Kern, with whom she also will perform again the whole cycle of violin sonatas by Beethoven.

Besides numerous radio and television broadcasts, her first CD was released by the Belgian label *Pavane*, featuring works for violin and piano by Antonin Dvorak. In fall 2005, a CD with four Violin Concertos by Tomaso Albinoni appeared at *Brilliant Classics* in Holland. Tanja Becker-Bender plays a violin by Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù (Cremona 1728) from the German Instrument Fund, owned by *Blue de Brasil* of the *Fazenda Ipiranga*.

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violinist



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