

Karlsruhe Concert Duo

Reinhard Armleder, cello

Dagmar Hartmann, piano



The **Karlsruhe Concert Duo**, founded in 1997 by the cellist Reinhard Armleder and the pianist Dagmar Hartmann, is successful and in demand in Germany and abroad. The ensemble has established itself not least by winning several international competitions. The Duo is regularly highly praised for fascinating its public by the depth of its interpretations, brilliant technique and its imaginative choice of programmes which often contain rediscovered works of little known composers.

The Duo won first prizes in international competitions: In Italy in the *Lorenzo Perosi* competition in Biella, in Moncalieri (both in 1999) and in the competition in Racconigi (in 2001). In France the Duo won the *Concours Pierre Lantier* in Paris (in 2000) and the *U.A.F.M.* competition in Chaville (2003).

Reinhard Armleder and Dagmar Hartmann fascinate their public all over the world. In only the past seven years, the Duo has travelled to more than 40 countries, successfully taking part in renowned festivals and concert series, as for example the *Beethoven Music Society Washington*, *Schubert Society London*, *Festival de Musique au Château de Bourglinster/Luxembourg*, *Festival Art November Moskau*, *Haifa Music Festival*, *Concert Series Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP)*, *Darling Music Festival South Africa* or *Johannesburg International Mozart Festival*.

They further have recorded various Radio and Television productions as well as several CD's under the *fiori classics* label.

While still studying, the two musicians went on their first tours to Israel (1998 and 2003) and to various countries in Europe. The Duo has, in the meantime, travelled to most of the European countries.

In 2006 the Duo made their debut in the USA, having been invited by the Beethoven-Society in Washington. In 2007 and 2009 the Duo went on tours to the United States and Canada with extremely successful appearances in the most important cities. In 2008 and 2009 the Duo went to Russia, in the same years and in 2012 to the Middle East and to the Arabian Peninsula. Their first tour to South America took place in 2010, the first tour to Southeast Asia and China in 2011. In 2013 the Duo travelled to India and Bangladesh, to the African continent (South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia) and performed in Iceland, Italy, Spain and Poland.

In 2014 they gave concerts in Ethiopia and South Africa as well as in Luxembourg, Jamaica, Nicaragua and in the USA.

To quote praise by a specialist publication: "... it is rare to find a duo with such a fortunate and intense combination of a kindred musicality, affinity and interaction with their instruments."

Dagmar Hartmann, the Duo's pianist, grew up in Karlsruhe where she began her piano lessons at the age of six at the Baden Conservatory. Later, she continued her piano studies at the Trossingen University of Music with Prof. Johan van Beek and Prof. Wolfgang Wagenhäuser. Her degree was followed by her soloist's exam and, in 1996, her chamber music exam. International master classes with Gaby Casadesus, Bruno Canino, Menahem Pressler, Leonard Hokanson and Karl-Ulrich Schnabel rounded off her musical education and gave important impulses and inspiration. In 1997 she received a chamber music scholarship from the "Braunschweig Kammermusikpodium". Dagmar Hartmann performs as a soloist as well as in ensembles with very different castings. Her musical diversity is documented by numerous radio recordings, by her CD recordings with ARS (featuring works by Gershwin, Rachmaninov and de Falla) and with Palatina Viva (with works by J. S. Bach). Since 2005 Dagmar Hartmann has been teaching at the Conservatory of Baden in Karlsruhe. She regularly gives master classes for piano and is called on to serve as a jury member for competitions.

The cellist **Reinhard Armleder** studied at the Trossingen University of Music with Prof. Gerhard Hamann and later at the Berlin University of the Arts with Prof. Eberhard Finke. After graduating, he completed his studies at the Trossingen University of Music, where he took his soloist's exam in 2000. In addition, Reinhard Armleder was inspired in master classes by Lynn Harrell, Steven Isserlis, Janos Starker, Siegfried Palm and the "Beaux-Arts"-Trio. In 1997 and 1998 he received scholarships from the "Braunschweig Kammermusikpodium" and from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service). In 2000 and 2001 he played in the "Verbier Festival Orchestra" conducted by James Levine, Zubin Mehta, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Kent Nagano, Paavo Järvi and Yuri Temirkanov. Reinhard Armleder performs as a soloist and in different chamber music ensembles. He played in several SWR radio recordings and he performed as Nigel Kennedy's choice chamber music partner on the CD "Kennedy's Greatest Hits" which was issued in 2002 by EMI classics. Since 2004, Reinhard Armleder has been teaching a cello class at the Conservatory of Baden in Karlsruhe. He gives master classes and appears regularly as a jury member at competitions.