



Stephen Smith

Stephen Smith was born in the United States and has lived in Switzerland since 1982. His musical path began at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland. After finishing studies in organ, conducting and church music in the USA and Switzerland, he studied the baroque and renaissance repertoires intensively. He is particularly interested in historical performance practice and the relationships of early music to contemporary music, which he has explored in hundreds of concerts with the Ensemble Corund Lucerne and the Corund Baroque Orchestra, which he founded in 1993.

Concerts with his ensembles and as a guest conductor have taken him to Spain, Germany, England, Latvia, Romania, Bermuda, the USA and throughout Switzerland. Smith also directs an ambitious music program at the historical St. Matthew's Church in Lucerne and has been the artistic director of the Corund Concerts series for choral and early music in Lucerne for 25 years. As an innovative presenter of cross-over projects, he has enlivened the Swiss music scene with many «firsts».

In 2006 he was the initiator and artistic director of a festival commemorating the 20th anniversary of Maurice Duruflé's death. Unique to Switzerland, the festival presented Duruflé's complete works for choir, orchestra and organ. In 2013 he directed a 3-month festival – also unique to Switzerland – commemorating Benjamin Britten's 100th birthday, presenting a broad spectrum of Britten's choral compositions, a cappella and with organ and orchestra. 2016, in collaboration with the Mengelberg Foundation in Holland, he realized a performance and CD/DVD-recording of Willem Mengelberg's "Feierliche Messe" of 1896 for choir, soloists and orchestra, the first performance in 120 years since the premier.

During the last years, he has followed invitations as a conductor to Frankfurt (Oder), Pamplona, Riga, Bratislava, Sibiu, Oradea, Cluj-Napoca, Canterbury, Oxford and Lincoln. He has worked with orchestras and choirs such as Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, Zurich Chamber Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfonica de Navarra, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester Frankfurt, Atlanta Baroque Choir & Orchester, Zuger Sinfonietta, Camerata Musica, Transylvanian Philharmonic Choir & Orchestra, Sibiu State Philharmonic Choir & Orchestra, Oradea State Philharmonic Choir & Orchestra, Magnolia Baroque Festival Choir & Orchestra, La banda antix, Capriccio, Putni, Zürcher Singakademie, etc. For the 2017/18 season Smith has received invitations from Stuttgarter Kammerorchester, Musikkollegium Winterthur and Timisoara Philharmonic Orchestra., as well as repeat invitations from Oradea State Philharmonic Choir & Orchestra, and Sibiu State Philharmonic Choir & Orchestra.

Stephen Smith regularly prepares his choir, the Ensemble Corund, for conductors such as Douglas Boyd, James Gaffigan, Mario Venzago, Laurence Cummings, Mark Elder, Howard Arman or Douglas Bostock.

Numerous CD and radio recordings are testament to his broad musical interests and activities.

In 2018 Stephen Smith received the Edwin Fischer Foundation's exceptional commemorative award in recognition of his outstanding artistic work for and in Lucerne.