

STEFAN ANTON RECK

BIOGRAPHY

The music conductor and painter Stefan Anton Reck was born in Baden-Baden in 1960. After graduating from the Liceo Classico "Richard Wagner" in Baden –Baden he continued his studies in Freiburg, at the *Hochschule für Musik* and at the University of Freiburg. It was here that, in conjunction with the study of piano, he studied Philosophy and History of Art. In 1986 he moved to Berlin to continue his studies. He graduated at the Hochschule der Künste. The year before, in Italy he had won the International Competition for Orchestral Conducting "Arturo Toscanini" and this trend continued as he won First Prize at the International Competition "Gino Marinuzzi". Next, in 1987 and 1990 he received a scholarship from the Tanglewood Music Festival enabling him to attend the courses of Seiji Ozawa and Leonard Bernstein. His continuous travelling around Europe allowed him to visit numerous exhibitions and some of the most important museums of contemporary art, which were integral to his artistic formation. This continual travelling allowed him to carry out the research of his own pictorial style and to develop his own artistic signature. From 1997 to 2000 he worked as Claudio Abbado's assistant, starting the collaboration with the production of *Wozzeck* at the Salzburg Festival. During this time, working with Pierre Boulez, he focused on directing the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra to perform the *Rite of Spring* by Stravinsky, *Notations* by Boulez and *Bluebeard's Castle* by Bartók which was their summer tour from 1997 and 1998). In 1998 he began the production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* by Richard Wagner at the Teatro Verdi in Trieste. From 1999 to 2003 he was music director of the Teatro Massimo in Palermo. In Ferrara in 1999 he conducted the Mahler Chamber Orchestra as they performed Verdi's *Falstaff* in a production by Claudio Abbado. Subsequently, during the summer tour of the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra, under the direction of Claudio Abbado, he conducted a performance of Mahler's *Symphony VII* in Havana. In September 1999, he opened the concert season with Mahler's *Symphony VI* at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo. It was here that, in March 2000, he also conducted *Die Erwartung* by Arnold Schönberg with Anja Silja and *La voix humaine* by Francis Poulenc, which was recorded live on cd for the Avidi Lumi/Teatro Massimo collection and published with a cover designed by Marco Loyola. In 2000 he conducted the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra again during the *Internationale Musikfestwochen Luzern* and also the annual European summer tour with music by Shostakovich, Mahler, Scriabin and Bartok. In January 2001, Reck opened the season at the Teatro Massimo of Palermo with a new production of *Lulu* by Alban Berg, which was then released as a live recording from Oehms Classics. For Arte Nova Classics he recorded a CD with Albert Dohmen, music by Richard Wagner. In the following months Reck debuted with great success with the Orchestra National de France in Paris, with the orchestra of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, at the Teatro Comunale di Bologna and at the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genova. In November 2001, he completed the production of the cycle *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at the Teatro Verdi in Trieste alongside the *Götterdämmerung*. The new production of the opera *Moses und Aron* by Arnold Schoenberg was a particularly interesting event, just like the concert for the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the reopening of the historic Teatro Massimo titled "The memory of the offense. Dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust and to the victims of violence." In this production appeared other tracks like "Der Kaiser von Atlantis" by Viktor Ullmann and "A survivor" from Warsaw by Arnold Schoenberg, with Harvey Keitel in the role of narrator. Reck's productions for the Autumn 2002 and the season 2003 included: *Jeanne d'Arc au Bûcher* by Hogger in Palermo, *Salome* by Strauss in Genova, *Der Freischütz* by Werber in Lipsia and symphonic concerts with the National Orchestra of France, National Orchestra of Montpellier, Philharmonic Orchestra of Strasbourg, Orchestra of Santa Cecilia in Rome and the orchestras of the Teatro comunale di Bologna and Del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. In September 2003 Reck debuted at the Semperoper in Dresden with Verdi's *Aida*. In 2004 he debuted at the Bayerische Staatsoper München with *Lulu* by Alban Berg (the version comprising three acts), at the Los Angeles Opera with a new production of *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart and at the Gran Teatro la Fenice in Venice with a new production of *Daphne* by Richard Strauss, published afterwards in CD and DVD by the label Dynamic. In 2005 Stefan Anton Reck was invited to conduct two new productions at the New National Theatre of Tokyo: *Lulu* by Alban Berg and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* by Wagner. The most salient events of the years following 2005 were a new production (shown in Europe for the first time) of the work *Dead Man Walking* by Jake Heggie at the Semperoper in Dresden, *Tristan und Isolde* by Richard Wagner at the Teatro Regio di Torino, a new production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* by Wagner at the Teatro Petruzzelli in Bari, debuts at the Hamburgische Staatsoper, and at the Oper Frankfurt and numerous symphonic concerts with the National Symphonic Orchestra of RAI in Torino, the National Orchestra of Montpellier, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (Edinburgh Festival) and the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and many other symphonic companies. Recently the production signed by Yannis Kokkos *Der Fliegende Holländer* by Richard Wagner achieved resounding success both at the Teatro Comunale in Bologna and at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples. The production *Eine florentinische Tragödie* by Alexander Zemlinsky at the Teatro Regio in Torino achieved the same immense success. For the coming year 2015, Reck has been invited by the National Symphonic Orchestra of RAI (a department of NuovaMusica RAI) to conduct a concert dedicated to the ninetieth birthday years of Pierre Boulez, where *Livre pour Cordes* and *Notation 1, 2, 3, 4* and *7* will be performed. To this specific composition, Stefan Anton Reck has dedicated the pictorial cycle *12 Notations*. Stefan Anton Reck is recognised at an international level as a significant connoisseur of Gustav Mahler's music and of the Second School of Vienna (Berg, Schönberg, Webern). Through his choice of repertoire emerges the eccentricity of his art, his musical intensity and a strong propensity for contemporary music. This propensity is also reflected in his vast pictorial production in which gestures borrowed from music conducting become sign and colour, proceeding to structures and rhythms of rapid perception. Only recently Stefan Anton Reck has decided to add to his music conductor activities the presentation of his paintings in major galleries and museums in Italy and abroad.