

Christian Elin saxophone, bass clarinet, alto flute, composition

As a soloist, composer, improviser as well as chamber and orchestral musician the multi-instrumentalist Christian Elin operates at the interconnection between classical music, jazz and world music. His entertainingly compered concerts are received with great enthusiasm by the public and the press.

Since his studies in Munich, Paris and Basel and a one-year scholarship from the International Ensemble Modern Academy in Frankfurt, he has worked with many leading German orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the BR and HR symphony orchestras, the Bavarian State Orchestra, the Munich and Stuttgart orchestras Philharmonic, the Badische Staatskapelle Karlsruhe, the Klangforum Heidelberg and the Ensemble Modern. He played under the direction of conductors such as Mariss Jansons, Sir Simon Rattle, Kirill Petrenko and Hans Zender.

Christian Elin has performed as a soloist with chamber orchestras such as the St. Christopher Chamber Orchestra / Vilnius, the Orchestre de Chambre Nouvelle Europe / Paris, the Kammerphilharmonie Frankfurt and the Sinfonia Concertante Bremen. In 2015 he played his composition "WAVES" for soprano saxophone and string orchestra at the World Saxophone Congress in Strasbourg with the Orchestre symphonique de Mulhouse.

Since 2014 he has had a close musical partnership with the pianist and composer Maruan Sakas in the "Duo Elin Sakas", with whom he pursues a lively international concert activity alongside his chamber music formations "Gambelin" - in the unique line-up of viola da gamba and saxophone - "Les anches variées" and "wind & keys".

A special characteristic of Christian Elins' musical work is his stylistic openness to early music, jazz, film music, Indian and Arabic music. It is particularly evident in his compositions, in which he fuses these influences with his classical background.

Christian Elins' discography currently comprises 12 CDs / DVDs; his own compositions are currently available on four CDs: "streaming" (2009) with solo works, about which the composer Erkki-Sven Tüür wrote: "Beautiful, atmospheric and poetic", "Back to yourself" (2012), recorded as a duo Anna D'Errico as well as "Some Kind of Blues" (2017) and "Mittsommernacht" (2020) in a duo with Maruan Sakas.

For his music he was awarded the Bavarian Art Prize. From the jury's statement: "Christian Elin's improvisations on the soprano saxophone are outstanding, technically challenging but playfully easy, as well as his handling of influences from other cultures."

The musicians with whom Christian Elin has worked so far include Paul Beynet, Daniel Elias Brenner, Anindo Chatterjee, Anna D'Errico, Rihards Dubra, Peter Eötvös, Pedro Estevan, Peter-Michael Hamel, Roger Hanschel, Christian Heiß, Kilian Herold, Friederike Heumann, Sabine Lutzenberger, Zubin Mehta, Katie Melua, Walter Nussbaum, Hans-Eberhard Roß, Enjott Schneider, Kadri-Ann Sumera, Franz Wittenbrink, and Ken Zuckerman.

Christian Elin has been a member of GEMA since 2007 and a full member since 2018.

As a freelance music teacher, he teaches the subjects of saxophone, clarinet and piano and has been successfully managing himself in the music business for 15 years.