

Unprecedented, young, wild

**Performances and projects of the trumpeter Simon Höfele in the 2019/20 season
Since September, he has been touring throughout Europe as a "Rising Star"**



Simon Höfele is one of those musicians who tend to be described in superlatives right from the start of their careers. He is among "the most exciting and versatile [proponents] of his craft" and also one of the "most successful", according to critics. At the age of just 25, he has already been chosen as a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist, is a "Junger Wilder" at the Konzerthaus in Dortmund, has received the Special Prize U21 at the ARD Music Competition and has won the 2016 German Music Competition. As of this season, he is touring through all of Europe as an ECHO Rising

Star, with concert programmes he has devised himself. He was nominated for the scheme by the Cologne Philharmonie, the Elbphilharmonie and Dortmund's Konzerthaus.

But, of course, it is not just the competitions and scholarships won by Simon Höfele that bring forth these exceptional eulogies. Rather, critics repeatedly extol details of his playing – in particular, the soft sounds and the sensitivity that enables Höfele to apprehend the subtext of a piece. "What unprecedented pyrotechnics!" wrote Eleonore Büning about Höfele's last album, "Mysteries". "The excitement is contagious, thanks to the passion and perfection." The *Rheinische Post* is of the opinion that as a virtuoso, he casts "a profound spell. It is almost unbelievable that a brass instrument with a bowl-shaped mouthpiece can sound like a flute or an oboe."

For Höfele himself, sentences like these are the biggest compliments of all: "That is the nicest thing you can say to me," he said in an interview. "That my trumpet doesn't sound like a trumpet." He says he does not want to match any clichés, but to make music: "Actually, I don't even want to even see myself as a trumpet player, but first and foremost as a musician."

On his newest album, which will be released in January 2020 on the Berlin Classics/Edel label, he returns to the roots of his musical career, interpreting the standard works that have accompanied him through his musical life for 18 years: the great trumpet concertos of Joseph Haydn, Johann Nepomuk Hummel and Alexander Arutjunjan. The album also includes Aaron Copland's "Quiet City." In the works by Hummel and Haydn, Höfele is accompanied by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and in the other pieces by the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, all conducted by Duncan Ward. A second CD is already being planned as a continuation of the series.

But above all, the 25-year-old's concert schedule in the coming season is not just full but particularly exciting. Although he has already got to know many of the big venues, playing on stages such as those in the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, the Tonhalle in Zurich, Wigmore Hall in London, the Bozar in Brussels and the Herkulessaal in Munich, his selection as a "Rising Star" will take him to a lot more of the world's renowned concert halls. The tour begins in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam on 25 September 2019, where he will join with pianist Kärt Rubel to interpret, among other things, Paul Hindemith's Trumpet Sonata, Tōru Takemitsu's "Paths" and the Dutch premiere of Miroslav Srnka's "Milky Way". Höfele will then travel on to Luxembourg (Philharmonie, 1 October 2019), Budapest (Müpa, 11 November 2019), Newcastle (The Sage Gateshead, 18 January 2020), London (St. Lukes, 14 February 2020) and Lisbon (Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, 16 February 2020).

Instead of coming up with just two programmes for the tour, Höfele proposed "four or five", as he says. So even those listeners who follow him about and attend several of his concerts will hear different works each time – whether George Antheil's Sonata for Trumpet and Piano in Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie (21 January 2020),

Daniel Schnyder's Trumpet Sonata in Budapest (11 November 2019) or even Claude Debussy's "Claire de lune" in an arrangement for trumpet and percussion in the Konzerthaus in Vienna (20 April 2020).

As "Junger Wilder", Höfele will be a special guest in Dortmund's Konzerthaus in this season for a second year running. The scheme gives young talents the opportunity to play regular concerts with their own programmes – for which they are given a completely free hand. For mid-September, Höfele and the percussionist Simone Rubino have come up with an unusual selection including Toshio Hosokawa's "Im Nebel", and next February there will be a long concert featuring highlights from young musicians selected for the scheme ("Sternstundenmarathon", 8 February 2020).

Höfele began playing the trumpet at the age of seven. He particularly likes telling one anecdote connected with this: "My father bought a small trumpet decoration on eBay to hang on the wall. I blew into it and knew: I want to play the trumpet!" At the time, he was five years old – but just after he had voiced this wish, his incisors fell out. "I had to wait for ages until I could have lessons," he says. Perhaps other children would not have been able to wait two years – but he managed. In his family, in which his mother, his father and two uncles earn their livings as orchestral woodwind players, Höfele is the only brass player.

But in concerts, he doesn't play just the majestic trumpet concertos. Quite on the contrary: in his most recent recordings and concerts, he has focused on contemporary music. "It's great being able to ask composers how they want something," Höfele says. "Perhaps that is what fascinated me about new music from the outset." He plays chamber music in different, often experimental combinations with great enthusiasm.

For any press enquiries, please contact:

Schimmer PR
Bettina Schimmer
Auf Rheinberg 2, 50733 Köln, Germany
phone : +49 (0) 221-16879623 // mob : +49 (0) 172-2148185
bettina.schimmer@schimmer-pr.de
www.schimmer-pr.de