



“When I look to the future now, I no longer have anything to prove. It’s great. I can be myself.”

Antje Weithaas’s plans, projects, and engagements for the 2026/2027 season

Antje Weithaas celebrates her 60th birthday in November. The highly acclaimed and internationally respected violinist has every reason to look back with happiness and satisfaction on her unique career, impressive discography, and immensely successful work as a professor of music, and perhaps even take things a little easier from now on. Far from it! Trained at the Hanns Eisler School of Music Berlin in the former East Germany, Weithaas is embarking on this next chapter of her life with artistic verve and renewed creative energy.

The fact that Weithaas has earned the highest international renown is evidenced not only by the cover story in the October issue of *The Strad* – the world’s leading magazine for string players – but also by her concert schedule for the current season, featuring engagements in Spain, Israel, the UK, France, Hong Kong, Hungary, Greece, Switzerland, and, of course, Germany.

Antje Weithaas will visit China twice this season. A particular highlight of her **China tour** takes place in the second half of October, comprising six concerts in which the Brandenburg-born artist reveals the full range of her artistry: as an unaccompanied soloist (performing Bach partitas and sonatas), as a chamber musician (playing Mozart sonatas with pianist Kiveli Dörken), and as a leading soloist and conductor in a Mendelssohn program.

Conducting is a passion to which Weithaas wishes to devote herself more intensively in this new phase of her life: *“Conducting has further developed my entire understanding of music in a different way. I have always looked at the score, but now I see more. I’m surprised by how much there is still to discover when viewing it from this perspective.”*

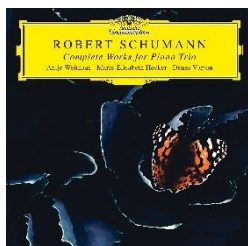


In the 2026/27 season, Antje Weithaas will appear as a **soloist-leader** with the Beethoven Orchester Bonn (Dec. 5), Camerata Bern (Jan. 23/24), and the Royal Northern Sinfonia (Feb. 5/6), among others. Her performances with Camerata Bern will feature Pēteris Vasks’s Violin Concerto No. 1, “Distant Light”, a work she will also record with the ensemble for Deutsche Grammophon.

Antje Weithaas is and has always been **a chamber musician through and through**. This is clear, not only in her enthusiastic participation in festivals such as Spannungen (Heimbach/Eifel) and the Molyvos International Music Festival (Lesbos/Greece), but also in the impressive number of her recordings, which are almost annually nominated for awards. In 2024, she received the Annual Award of the German Record Critics for her complete recording of the Beethoven sonatas with pianist Dénes Várjon (label CAVI/DG). The award will be presented in person on October 9th during a three-day **Beethoven cycle at Berlin’s Pierre Boulez Saal**, where the duo will perform the entire set of works live: an event that will also be live-streamed on DG/Stage+. *“It is magnificent music, and it reveals Beethoven’s incredible evolution as a composer, from his early years right up to Opus 96.”* Regarding the *Kreutzer Sonata*, she notes with a smile: *“For me, it’s like an 800-meter race. Every note has to carry an extremely high level of energy to sustain the inner tension. I think it’s even more demanding for the pianist. Poor Dénes has to play billions of notes!”*

During the season, Antje Weithaas will also appear alongside the poetic Hungarian pianist in a program featuring **works by Brahms** (January 16 in Offenburg, February 9 in Budapest, February 10 in Bonn). The performances will

also include a true musical gem: the Sonata, Op. 33, by the forgotten Romantic composer Robert Gund (1865–1927).



In late October, Antje Weithaas will also release her next album: **a recording of all the piano trios by Robert Schumann** (Deutsche Grammophon, 2 CDs) with cellist Marie-Elisabeth Hecker and Dénes Várjon on piano. *"With Schumann, you have to have the courage to embrace darkness and be able to leap from heaven to hell in a tenth of a second [...] This music is extreme and deeply emotional—my goodness! The slow movements are like voices from paradise, featuring the most beautiful melodic lines imaginable."*

"The more you know, the more questions you have. But when I look back on my life and see myself today, I know that everything that happened was exactly right. Things take time to unfold, and you never really feel ready. But now I have more self-confidence. I have a better understanding of what I'm capable of. And I wouldn't want to be younger again."

The current season features **seven major violin concertos** with her as soloist: Béla Bartók's Concerto No. 1 with the Musikkollegium Winterthur under the direction of Leo McFall (Dec. 9/10); Pēteris Vasks' *Distant Light* with Camerata Bern (Jan. 23/24); Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor with the Royal Northern Sinfonia (Feb. 5/6); Alban Berg's *To the Memory of an Angel* (Feb. 16) with the Freiburg Philharmonic Orchestra under André de Ridder; Beethoven's Violin Concerto, Op. 61, with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin conducted by Jonathan Cohen (Feb. 27/28) and the Orchestre National de Cannes under Holly Hyun Choe (June 6); Vasks' Concerto No. 2 with the Sichuan Philharmonic Orchestra under Yukuang Jin (March 12); and the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Bochum Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Anu Tali (June 12).



Against this backdrop, Antje Weithaas's 60th birthday becomes a promising look toward the future, free from nostalgia for the past. The intimate, almost family-like birthday concert held as part of this year's Kronberg Academy (November 21), featuring musical friends, colleagues, and long-time associates, perfectly exemplifies an artist to whom egocentrism and self-promotion are entirely alien. Her motto? *"Humility before the work. Depth. Empathy for the composer. You can buy click counts, and followers too—but not quality."* Happy birthday, Antje Weithaas!

More information about the DG album with the Schumann Trios



Antje Weithaas violin
Marie-Elisabeth Hecker cello
Dénes Várjon piano

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Photos Antje Weithaas © Marco Borggreve

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