

BENJAMIN-GUNNAR COHRS

CONDUCTOR • MUSIC RESEARCH & PUBLICATION

Benjamin-Gunnar Cohrs made his international conducting debut in November 2000 in the Moscow Bolshoi Hall with the *Russian National Orchestra*. Since then he has conducted international orchestras, including the *Philharmonia Hungarica*, *Royal Flanders Philharmonic*, *Czech State Orchestra Ostrava*, *Sarajevo Symphony Orchestra*, *Göttingen Baroque Orchestra*. He is also a renowned arranger and editor of music. As a scholar and as editorial director of the new Anton Bruckner Urtext Complete Edition (www.hermann.eu), he is acknowledged as a leading authority in



Bruckner. Already in 2002 he has performed his own critical edition of Bruckner's completed Ninth Symphony for the Austrian *Bruckner-Bund* in Gmunden, conducting the *Janacek Philharmonic*. His new Urtext editions of Bruckner's Symphonies appear since 2015; its premieres were given by Sir Simon Rattle (N° VII: *Berlin Philharmonic*, May 2015; N° VI: *Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment*, April 2016) and Daniel Harding (N° V: *Swedish Radio Orchestra*, *Orchestre de Paris* and *Berlin Philharmonic*, September 2018). His editions of Bruckner's church music are premiered and recorded by *RIAS Kammerchor* and *Akademie für alte Musik Berlin* under Lukasz Borowicz (Missa Solemnis 2017, Requiem 2018; to be continued). His own completed new edition of Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony* has also been performed and recorded by *Concentus Musicus Wien* under Stefan Gottfried in 2018.

Ben Cohrs has a particular interest in the lesser known repertory of the 19th and 20th Century. Of major concern to him is also to build bridges between theory and practice of music: He frequently conducts workshops concerts, often on Bruckner, with both professional and student orchestras. In September 2013 he conducted the first performance of his new completion of Mozart's *Requiem* in Bremen and Dortmund, with the *Alsfelder Vocal Ensemble* and the *Göttingen Baroque Orchestra*. He also loves the string orchestra and romantic string music: His 2004 project with his own *Simple String Orchestra* in Bremen was well received, and in 2016 the *Göttingen Baroque Orchestra* played under his direction music by Bruckner, Grieg, Respighi, Elgar, Delius, Ravel and Holst on gut strings and in a style appropriate to the time. (A CD release of this is in preparation, as well as a new project in 2020, exclusively dedicated to Bruckner.)

Ben Cohrs made his debut as a conductor in 1984, with the *Orchestra of the Youth Music School* of his native town, Hameln, where he also received his early musical education (Flute, Piano, Music Theory). At the age of nineteen he founded the *Youth String Orchestra of Hameln*, which gave concerts under his baton until 1990. Until 1988 he studied conducting privately with the noted Italian composer and conductor Prof. Nicola Samale (Rom); in 1988 he assisted him at the rehearsals of Bruckner's Ninth with the *Polish Radio Orchestra Katowice* – his first encounter with a professional orchestra. He also sang in various choirs, in particular at the St. Nicolai Church Hameln and the Dome of Bremen. From 1989 until 1994 he studied concert conducting, voice, and flute at the High-school of Arts in Bremen. During this time he also conducted various choral and orchestral concerts and visited numerous rehearsals and projects of renowned conductors and orchestras as a guest student. His concert examination in 1994 was recorded and broadcasted by Radio Bremen, including the premiere of his own edition of Martin's *Sonata da Chiesa* and the first Bremen performance of Vaughan Williams' Fifth Symphony. By invitation of Prof. Dr. Andrew D. McCredie, he then studied Musicology at the *University of Adelaide*, on a full scholarship of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), receiving his postgraduate diploma in 1996. In 2009 he submitted his thesis in historical musicology, and in 2010 received his doctorate (*University of Hamburg*).

Since 1987 Cohrs has presented papers to international musicological conferences and contributed to the daily press, scholarly and popular music magazines, radio stations, websites, concert organizers and record companies, writing interviews, articles, reviews, programme and booklet notes. From 1995 to 2010 Cohrs was Co-Editor of the Bruckner Complete Edition in Vienna; there he published, amongst other things, a new critical edition of Bruckner's Ninth Symphony, its Critical Report and a separate study on its Scherzo. He is also known for his work at the completed performance version of the unfinished Finale of Bruckner's Ninth in the editorial team of Nicola Samale. (Score available from www.musikmph.de) His editions for numerous publishers include arrangements of the *Sonata da Chiesa* by Frank Martin (Universal Edition) and the *Gymnopédies* by Erik Satie, for String Orchestra (Doblinger). Cohrs also edited new completed performance editions of Schubert's *Unfinished Symphony* D 759, of Mozart's C minor Mass and Requiem.

— updated 1 October 2018 —

More information: www.benjamin Gunnar Cohrs.com

Video of the Mozart Requiem 2013 performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSJWiV7xBCc>

Further recordings available on request.