

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Studies

Katharina Deserno, born in 1982 in Frankfurt am Main, studied with Gerhard Mantel in Frankfurt, with Maria Kliegel in Cologne, and with Philippe Muller in Paris in 2005/2006 on a „Sokrates-Erasmus” scholarship. She graduated with the Künstlerisches Diplom (2007) and the Konzertexamen (2009), and with an additional diploma in musical education that she passed with distinction.

Her studies were complemented by masterclasses with Siegfried Palm, with whom she studied contemporary repertoires; with Leonid Gorokov, Wolfgang Boettcher, Janos Starker/Kronberg-Masterclasses, the Artemis Quartet, Henry W.

Meyer/LaSalle Quartet, the Ensemble Modern, György Kurtág, baroque repertoire with Rainer Zipperling, among others.

Teaching

Since 2008 Katharina Deserno has taught at the University of Music and Dance Cologne (HfMT/Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln). She teaches students in the Bachelor’s and Master’s programs as well as young students from the Pre-College in Cologne. Katharina Deserno has worked as Assistant Professor for Maria Kliegel since 2008 and is regularly invited to give cello masterclasses. Katharina Deserno is a member of the ESTA (European String Teachers Association) and in the directorate of this association. Many of her students have been awarded a variety of prizes and scholarships in performance.

Since 2015 Katharina Deserno is a professor at University of Music and Performing Arts Frankfurt.

Concerts and recordings

As a soloist, she has performed with the Spanish National Orchestra, among others, and has premiered works that were composed specifically for her, so the Cello Concerto “L’Image,” by José Luis de Delás, and the solo piece “Homage to Clara Schumann”, by Oxana Omelchuk among others. She has also been broadcast on Deutschlandfunk, ORF, Radio Clasica (Spain) and WDR.

Since 2003 Katharina Deserno has been performing with the pianist Nenad Lecic, and the duo has recorded three CDs that were released by Kaleidos Musikeditionen in 2012: “Homage à Clara Schumann,” with works by women composers, and

“Fugenbrücke” (Fugue bridge), with works by Ludwig van Beethoven and Konrad Lang. Recently, the duo presented among others pieces the works of Clara Schumann and Fanny Hensel in a concert tour of South Korea and for a Korean broadcaster. In addition she recorded a CD with Chamber music by Barbara Heller for Wergo and recently a new CD with works for Cello solo by Violeta Dinescu and Johann Sebastian Bach which will be released in 2019.

Research and publications

Katharina Deserno’s teaching book entitled “Mein erstes Konzert” (My First Concert), was published by Schott-Music in 2011 which became a real Top-Seller. In addition, she has published several musicological articles and is regularly invited to give lectures and workshops.

In addition to her cello teaching she receives lectureships to teach musicology and pedagogy of music at the University of Music and Dance Cologne.

In 2014 Katharina Deserno finished her doctoral dissertation with distinction. Her project, entitled “A History of Women Cellists – Transformations and Constructions of Gender and Concepts of Femininity”, was supported by a scholarship from the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, the book was published at Böhlau in 2018.

Katharina Deserno received prizes and scholarships, among others by Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now e.V. and by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. She was appointed Artistic Director of Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Mow Frankfurt e.V.

She is also an active member of the GEDOK (German and Austrian Artists’ Association) as well as DTKV (German Musicians’ Association), Gender Studies in Köln, Arbeitskreis Frau und Musik, and Amnesty International.

Instrument

Katharina Deserno plays an Italian Violoncello by Carlo Antonio Testore from 1712 which has been generously provided to her by a German Maecenas.

www.katharinadeserno.de