**M A R T I N S T U R M**

born in 1992, is highly esteemed as an organist, improviser and composer by press and audience. "He provokes a new way of thinking about music or even art" wrote the newspaper "L'Eco di Bergamo" and titled "Sturm is a phenomenon".

In 2013 he won the renowned Improvisation Competition of the *International Organ Festival St Albans*. He was awarded the Audience Prize of the famous *International Improvisation Competition Haarlem* 2016, also he won the First Prize of the International *Improvisation Competition at the International Festival for Church Music Schwäbisch Gmünd* 2017. In 2017 he was honored by the *Universitätsbund Würzburg* with the sponsorship award of the *Keck-Köppe-Foundation* for his "exceptional artistic achievements".

His numerous concert engagements lead him to important festivals such as "Internationale Orgelwoche Nürnberg", "Festival Organistico Internazional Bergamo", "International Organ Festival St Albans" or the "Festival International d'Orgue de Bordeaux". He performed in large European cathedrals and churches, on famous historical organs such as Haarlem or Riga as well as in major European concert halls such as the MÜPA Budapest and St John's Smith Square London. In addition he performs as soloist, chamber and orchestral musician on clavichord, harpsichord and other keyboard instruments, but also as a pianist with his Jazz ensemble.

As a composer he wrote organ, piano, choral and orchestral works as well as chamber music. Theology and philosophy characterize his artistic aesthetics. A differentiated reflection on time and the variety of sounds between noise, silence and tone determine his musical language. In 2012 his "Prelude and Chorale on *Wir glauben all an einen Gott"* for choir and organ was written on behalf of the famous John Cage Organ Foundation Halberstadt. In 2016 he composed "Antiphon" for soli, choir and instrumentalists in memory of the victims of both world wars commissioned by the Monteverdi-Chor Würzburg. Several of his organ works were performed at international festivals.

At the University of Music Würzburg he teaches liturgical organ playing and improvisation. As a conductor he works with the Bach-Kantaten-Club Würzburg and some chamber ensembles. He is also responsible for the initiation and support of several organ building projects like the restauration of the historical Wilhelm-Hepp-Organ at Velburg (Bavaria).

He studied church music (A-Diploma) and organ solo studies at the University of Music Würzburg with Prof. Dr. h.c. Christoph Bossert. Since 2017 he continues his studies at the University for Music and Theatre Leipzig with Prof. Martin Schmeding and Prof. Thomas Lennartz. He attended masterclasses with Prof. Lászlo Fassang, Prof. Andrés Cea Galán, Prof. Theo Brandmülle, Prof. Ulrich Süße, Prof. Dr. Matthias Schneider and Dr. Balázs Szabó. Martin Sturm holds a scholarship from the "German National Academic Foundation".