

Mattheus, piano

"His viscerally exciting performance of Beethoven's 'Waldstein' emphasized the score's vivid contrasts and rhythmic urgency. The Liszt rhapsody . . . nevertheless showcased his ability to draw a spectrum of colors from the piano. In Schubert's Sonata in A, DV 664, the highlight of the evening, his beautiful singing style and unmannered delivery were captivating."

Washington Post

Mattheus was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1978 and received his first piano lessons at the age of seven. Soon, his musical talent became evident as he started to play melodies from memory. At the age of nine, Mattheus became a student of the Music Academy Vienna and, at 13, he was accepted as an "adult student" at the Music Academy Graz. He studied with well-known teachers, such as Alma Sauer, Sebastian Benda, Rudolf Kehrer and Wolfgang Watzinger, and broadened his musical mind with famous pianists such as Tatiana Nikolaeva, Gerhard Oppitz, Oleg Maisenberg and Paul Badura-Skoda, all of whom gave him special praise on his "musicality and intelligence woven together in a delicate equilibrium."

Mattheus was awarded several prizes in both national and international competitions, including two consecutive top prizes in the International Beethoven Piano Competition in Vienna. Winning First Prize in the International Brahms Piano Competition in Hamburg, and being the first Austrian and youngest winning contestant in the history of the competition, Mattheus established himself as an outstanding young concert pianist.

In 2006, he gave his debut performance at the Golden Hall of The Musikverein Vienna with Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto with the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra. Mattheus has been a guest pianist at more than 600 international performances at renowned festivals (mainly under his civil name until 2010), such as Schubertiade Schwarzenberg, Carinthian Summer, Klangbogen Vienna, Chopin Festival Valldemossa, Festival Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Summer Festival Bratislava and International Chopin Festival Garmisch. He has performed at the Musikverein Wien, Wiener Konzerthaus, Stefaniensaal Graz, Royal Dublin Society Concert Hall, Auditorium de Zaragoza, Slovakian Philharmonic Hall and Casals Hall Tokyo, taking him to Germany, Belgium, Italy, Spain, France, Ireland, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia and Switzerland, as well as to Japan, Taiwan, China, Argentina, Brazil and the United States, where he also gave Master Classes. As a soloist, he has appeared with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, RSO Radio-Symphony Orchestra Vienna, Tonkuenstler Orchestra, Slovakian Philharmonic, Janacek Chamber Philharmonic Brno, Württemberg Philharmonic and the Taichung City Symphonic Orchestra.

He has had numerous live and studio recordings on Austrian, Czech, Bavarian and North German Radio. Mattheus has recorded CD's of the Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2 and the Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1, with the Württemberg Philharmonic, as well as a solo repertoire by Schubert, Liszt, Ravel, Rachmaninov, Schulhof and Cziffra, on the ORF and Gramola recording label. The CD entitled, *Homage to Mozart* was released in 2006, including the first recording of an arrangement by Mattheus himself, which has been highly acclaimed by the press:

"This man's playing is brilliant! His Mozart playing is fresh and colourful, and the pianist finds the difficult way of the tightrope between singing tone and structural clarity. . . . He is a true discovery." Piano News, No. 2, 2007

"The young Viennese presents himself pianistically fresh, dedicated and sensitive, and he has also got a talent as an arranger. In his 'Homage to Mozart', he arranges six-and-a-half minutes of motifs and themes of the great master in the style of the 18th Century. Mozart on the beads." Rondo, No. 1, 2007

As performer and arranger, Mattheus was appointed by the Department for Strategy and Economical Development of the European Communion to direct a film/music project featuring "Centropo" in 2008/2009. In August 2009, Mattheus gave an outstanding open-air recital at the Plaza in front of the City Hall of Vienna, attracting an audience of over 2000 people, a classical music event planned and performed by a soloist that took place for the first time and has not been duplicated since. Apart from his pianistic standard repertoire and the special focus on Viennese classics, such as Schubert and all 32 Piano Sonatas by Beethoven, Mattheus has concentrated on arranging music, which led to the release of a CD album exclusively with his own classical arrangements in 2010, driven by the motivation to promote Vienna's musical tradition in the world and to encourage young people to listen to classical music. His concert tours 2011 include the US and South America.

Mattheus is also a Committee Member of the International Chopin Society in Vienna and a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International.