

ELCCNY NEWS

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Jakub Hrůša and the Bamberg Symphony Receive ICMA Award for Anton Bruckner: Symphony No. 4 – The 3 Versions

Recording Is Culmination of Pandemic Period of Digital Activities And New Beginning for Future Streaming Projects – Valentin Silvestrov's *Prayer for Ukraine* is Now Available

Luxembourg, April 22, 2022 – Last night at the International Classical Music Awards (ICMA) ceremony at the Philharmonie Luxembourg, Jakub Hrůša and the Bamberg Symphony received the ICMA Award for Symphonic Music for their recording of Anton Bruckner: Symphony No. 4 – The 3 Versions, released by Accentus Music in a co-production with BR-KLASSIK. The recording was created at the Bamberg concert hall, in the Joseph Keilberth Auditorium, home of the Bamberg Symphony, in November 2020.

The ICMA jury consists of music journalists from leading publications across Europe. In recognizing the recording, the organization stated: “Bruckner’s Symphony No. 4 has never been presented as lavishly on CD than in this four-CD set. Bamberger Symphoniker under the baton of Jakub Hrůša have recorded all three existing versions plus alternative movements and fragments of this monumental symphony. The listeners are very well served by these recordings and the most rewarding of them all is undoubtedly the 1874 version which has never been heard in a more fresh and colourful, imaginative, and richly blossoming performance than in this one under Jakub Hrůša. The recorded sound is also exceptional.”

The CD box set Anton Bruckner: Symphony No. 4 – The 3 Versions is the first recording of all three versions of the Bruckner symphony by an orchestra as a complete release, accompanied by historical and musicological background notes, and is available for purchase or streaming from [Accentus Music](#).

“I am delighted to have won the ICMA for our beautiful Bamberg Symphony team work on recording all three substantial versions of Bruckner’s Symphony No. 4,” commented Jakub Hrůša. Recording this heavenly music was one of the finest musical experiences in the studio I had ever experienced. The Bamberg Symphony is an ideal ensemble for this task: their approach to the musical phrase, the cultivation of the orchestral sound on which we work together every single day, and most of all the fact that the musicians genuinely love Bruckner’s music – that all contributed to a fantastic, deeply enjoyable time when preparing this disc.”

Marcus Axt, President and CEO of the Bamberg Symphony, added: “We allowed ourselves almost a whole month for the recordings. But it was an enjoyable period of intensive engagement with

Bruckner's work, especially considering that it took place during the COVID restrictions. We are very grateful and delighted for this international award and recognition.”

The recently released Bruckner recording is a culmination of digital projects conceived and undertaken throughout the COVID-19 pandemic period of the past two years. A recording and streaming partnership with medici.tv, begun in 2019 shortly before the onset of the pandemic, fortuitously created a platform to support performance endeavors during the period of musical disruption. In the summer of 2020, the Orchestra recorded Mahler IV, a partnership project with Accentus Music and BR-KLASSIK, for which they won the prestigious German Record Critics' Award. To celebrate New Year's Eve, 2021, the Singaporean conductor Kahchun Wong led the Bamberg Symphony in Beethoven's 9th Symphony, which was streamed live to Singapore and is currently available to watch at bamberger-symphoniker.de. This year, Bamberg created five concerts at home in Germany to stream in Hong Kong in celebration of the 50th Hong Kong Arts Festival. In March 2022, the Bamberg Symphony recorded Valentin Silvestrov's *Prayer for Ukraine*, which can be streamed now at <https://youtu.be/ZYUCv0vtbh4>.

Jakub Hruša

Jakub Hruša has been principal conductor of the Bamberg Symphony since September 2016. He is the fifth Chief conductor in the orchestra's history. "Even before I had the chance to conduct this jewel among European orchestras, I had been a huge admirer," says Jakub Hruša. "They embody orchestral culture in the fullest sense of the word. Since the orchestra's roots are in Prague, we breathe the same musical air, so to speak, share the same cultural background, and are very close artistically and historically. With the Bamberg Symphony, every phrase can turn to be a little miracle, and every concert is a transfiguration." [Full bio \[pdf\]](#)

Bamberg Symphony

The Bamberg Symphony is the only orchestra of world renown that is not based in a vibrant metropolis. The "magnetic effect" of the orchestra goes outwards: as a touring orchestra, the symphony orchestra carries the rhythm and musical echo of its hometown, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, all over the world. Since its founding, Bamberg's sound image has been shaped by almost 7,500 concerts in over 500 cities and 63 countries around the world, helping to put the town on the musical map, and becoming a cultural ambassador for Bavaria and the whole of Germany. They regularly tour, for example, the USA, South America, Japan and China. The orchestra, whose roots reach back to Prague, sees itself as a cross-border, cosmopolitan ambassador of sound. With its principal conductor Jakub Hruša, who hails from the Czech Republic, these roots have been given new impetus since 2016.

The Bamberg Symphony describes its mission in short words: resonating worldwide. They create resonance with their playing. Artistically and humanly, as an orchestra and as a beacon of cultural society. In all of this, the focus is doubly on sustainability. Because the traces the orchestra leaves behind want to make a difference musically as well as ecologically and contribute to actively shaping the future.

The orchestra's characteristic sound is much praised and has often won awards, most recently the Bavarian State Prize for Music in 2020. The typical sound of the "Bambergers" is described as dark, warm, and radiant. It is worth discovering for all new listeners.

www.bamberger-symphoniker.de

www.bambersymphony.com

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