

## BIOGRAPHY

FLORIAN ZWIAUER studied with Karl Barylli at the Vienna Conservatory and finished his studies in the masterclass of Franz Samohyl at the University of Music in Vienna. As soloist he won first prize at the Jeunesses Musicales Competition in 1969, and in 1978 was awarded second prize at the prestigious International Mozart-Violin-Competition in Salzburg.

1974 he founded the FRANZ SCHUBERT QUARTET of Vienna which was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> prize at the International String Quartet Competition of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) in Stockholm, Sweden; being the youngest ensemble and winning this prestigious prize in the first year of its existence caused quite a sensation which led to numerous concerts, Radio- and TV-recordings and a contract with NIMBUS RECORDS in Great Britain. The FSQ had their own concert-series in Vienna's Konzerthaus and Musikverein, in the Wigmore Hall, London, in the Salle Gaveau, Paris, and in Washington, D.C. They were invited to perform at all the major festivals like the Salzburger Festspiele, Wiener Festwochen, Schubertiade Hohenems, Carinthian Summer, City of London Festival, Cheltenham International Festival, Turku and Arjeplog Festivals, Istanbul International Festival, and many more.

The FSQ recorded for NIMBUS RECORDS Mozart's 10 famous string quartets, all quartets and quintets of Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf, all 3 quartets and the string sextet of Peter Iljitch Tchaikovsky, the last 3 string quartets of Joseph Haydn, string quartets by Erich Wolfgang Korngold, Emil Nicolaus von Reznicek, as well as all the string quartets of Franz Schmidt and Hans Pfitzner.

The FSQ was "quartet in residence" at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester (UK) and at the Music University in Graz, Austria.

As soloist FLORIAN ZWIAUER performed with many orchestras all over the world, among others with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, whose 1<sup>st</sup> leader he became in 1989, under the direction of Wolfgang Sawallisch, Yakov Kreizberg, Vladimir Fedosejev, Fabio Luisi, Marcello Viotti, Georges Prêtre and Lawrence Foster, to name but a few. He is also regularly invited as 1<sup>st</sup> guest-concertmaster with the Nederlands Philharmonic Orchestra, Amsterdam, the Gulbenkian Orchestra, Lisbon and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Monaco.

FLORIAN ZWIAUER has his own violin class at the Vienna Conservatory for Music ("Konservatorium Wien/Privatuniversität") since 1983, and is regularly invited to give masterclasses at home and abroad, as well as being a member of the jury of many international music competitions. Since 2005 he also teaches at the Scuola di Musica di Fiesole in Italy.

FLORIAN ZWIAUER was invited by the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon to be artistic director for his own Mozart-Festival, appearing there in the function as soloist, chamber-musician and conductor with the Gulbenkian Orchestra.

FLORIAN ZWIAUER was awarded the "Honorary Cross for Science and Arts" (Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst) in 2000, and in 2007 he was awarded the honorary title "Professor" by the Austrian Federal President.