

## *Matthias Giesen (Austria)*

The biography of each musician is published as it has been sent by its author

**Matthias Giesen** (\*1973) was born in Boppard/Rhein in Germany. After the final school examination he studied church music, organ and music theory at the Music University in Cologne, Stuttgart and Vienna. His organ teachers were the Cologne Cathedral organist Clemens Ganz, Johannes Geffert and Bernhard Haas, music theory he studied with Johannes Schild and Friedrich Jaecker. He joined several organ courses with Marie-Claire Alain, Guy Bovet, Lorenzo Ghielmi, Jean-Claude Zehnder, Michael Radulescu etc. In 1998 he won the First Prize of the Bayreuth Organ Competition. After his organ examinations he studied music theory with Martin Eybl at the Vienna University of Music.

In 1999 he was organist in several parishes in Cologne (Germany); in August 1999 he was chosen as the organist of the Bruckner-Organ of the Augustinian Monastery St Florian/Austria. He is also in charge of the Monastery's music archive.

He participated in several recordings for broadcast and television (Italian, Japanese, US-American-Television, Austrian television ORF). This involvement in many international concerts has contributed to his artistic activity (Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Poland, Greece, Algeria, Mexico, Slovakia, Russia, Australia etc.). In May 2002 a CD featuring Giesen playing the Bruckner Organ with organ compositions of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Liszt, Schumann, Reger and Bruckner transcription) was published. It also includes a transcription of one of Anton Bruckner's works. Several other CD projects are planned. In the following time different articles about the organ composers Jean Guillou (in 2001 Giesen made a collaboration project with him), André Jolivet, Leos Janacek and Max Reger were published.

Moreover he also taught music theory for two years at the Cologne Music University. Giesen is currently teaching music theory at Vienna Music University and at the Institute of Musicology. Since 2003 he is master of choir and orchestra of church music at the basilica of St Florian (music director) and organizer of the International Anton Bruckner Organ Competition Linz and St Florian. Since 2005 he is artistic director of the festival St Florianer Brucknertage.