



Born and raised in a German-Japanese family of professional musicians, **Susanna Yoko Henkel** started playing the violin already at age two, starting with her mother. She was mainly trained by the legendary violin pedagogue Ana Chumachenco in Munich; before that she was receiving lessons as a young student of the former concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Rainer Kussmaul. Already during her early studies she has won many prestigious prizes at international competitions such as the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels, the Mozart Competition in Salzburg and the Tibor Varga Competition in Sion.

In 1998, Susanna Yoko Henkel has won the first prize at the German Music Competition in Berlin. She has also received scholarships by the Mozart Gesellschaft Dortmund and the German Foundation „Musikleben“.

Besides her work as a soloist, Susanna Yoko Henkel is also a dedicated chamber musician. In 2006 she founded her own chamber music festival in Zagreb/Croatia, which belongs to the leading cultural events in Croatia. Her chamber music partners include, among others, Gabriela Montero, Lauma Skride, Pavel Gililov, Milana Chernyavska, Radovan Vlatković, Jing Zhao and Maxim

Rysanov. The festival's live-broadcasts have been released on „YouTube“ and have reached more than one million views so far. The Duisburg Philharmonic Orchestra chose her as „Artist in Residence“ in 2009/2010, followed by a close collaboration.

In 2011, Susanna Yoko Henkel was awarded with the prestigious „ECHO Klassik“ award for her live recording of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. This award, which has often been quoted as the „European Grammy“, has carried the young violinist into the centre of high media interest, which has led to appearances in the most popular German TV-shows and introduced her to a large audience.

Since many years she is appearing regularly with leading European orchestras such as the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, the Orchester der Beethovenhalle Bonn, the Sinfonie-orchester Mozarteum Salzburg, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra and many others.

Susanna Yoko Henkel has already released 7 CDs, which have all been highly praised by leading music journals. The German „Welt am Sonntag“ has elected her as one of Anne-Sophie Mutter's heiresses, and the U.S. music magazine „Strings“ honored her with a cover story in 2007. Her discography includes all Bach Sonatas and Partitas for violin solo, chamber music by Ravel, Prokofjev/Strauss violin sonatas, solo works by Ysang Yun, Bartok and Ysaye, duo works for violin and cello by Händel/Halvorsen, Eisler, Schulhoff and Kodaly, and the live-recording of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto.

Susanna Yoko Henkel plays on the „Ex Leslie Tate“ Stradivarius from 1710, generously loaned by a private proprietor; she holds a professorship at the „Hochschule für Musik und Tanz“ in Cologne and at the Music Academy in Zagreb.