Holger Speck

The US magazine *Fanfare* attests to Holger Speck's "undeniable authority," recognizing him as a charismatic conductor of international renown. He excels at conveying emotional depth while delivering vivid, historically informed performances that capture distinct stylistic characteristics. With his keen sense of sound and authentic interpretive approach, he shapes the ensembles he founded—Vocalensemble Rastatt and Les Favorites—as well as the various choirs and orchestras he conducts as a guest. These include the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, the Academy for Ancient Music Berlin, the choir and orchestra of the Slovenian Philharmonic in Ljubljana, Capella Istropolitana, and the NDR Vocalensemble—the latter of which he led in a highly acclaimed *arte* production of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. For John Neumeier's final major creation as ballet director in Hamburg, *Dona nobis pacem*, Holger Speck—described by the NDR as "an extraordinary conductor"—took the podium at the Hamburg State Opera and the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, reaching an audience of nearly 30,000. Wolfgang Schäuble, then President of the Bundestag, appointed him as a cultural ambassador for the Federal Republic of Germany for a concert held in conjunction with the G20 summit. Speck has established Vocalensemble Rastatt and Les Favorites on the international stage through compelling, thoughtfully curated concert programs and numerous award-winning CD recordings, which have garnered exceptional critical acclaim worldwide (including recognition from *Gramophone*, *American Record Guide*, *Fanfare*, *FonoForum*, *L'Orfeo*, *Pizzicato*, *Diapason*, and *ClassicsToday*). Furthermore, he has been responsible for the choral components in Deutsche Grammophon's productions of Mozart's operas.