

Michael Gees, Piano

Michael Gees, born in 1953, started his career at the age of eight, when he won a *Steinway competition* and a scholarship for the *Mozarteum* in Salzburg. He received his musical training in Salzburg, Vienna, Detmold and Hanover, where he supplemented his piano instruction by studying composition. As an accompanist at the *Frankfurt Opera*, he gained all-round practical experience in working together with singers.

Michael Gees turned to composing at an early date. He writes songs, choral works, stage music and works for piano and orchestra. Michael Gees' repertoire includes works of ancient masters, such as Scarlatti and Bach, as well as contemporary music and compositions of his own. He is a regular guest at major festivals (*Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Schubertiade Feldkirch*, etc.) and performs on a large number of concert stages around the world (Wigmore Hall, London; Concertgebouw Amsterdam; Carnegie Hall, New York, etc.)

Michael Gees is also a sought-after lied accompanist. For many years, he has been working successfully as a song accompanist together with the tenor Christoph Prégardien, with whom he has made guest appearances in Berlin, Amsterdam, London, Rome, New York und Tokyo, among other places. He also works together on a regular basis with the alto Ingeborg Danz. He has made several recordings of his own works, as well as CD's with Christoph Prégardien: Schubert Lieder *Von Abschied und Reise* (EMI), *Goethes Folgen* (cpo) and most recently a CD of Schumann's music, *Liederkreis op. 24 und Kerner-Lieder op. 35* (RCA).