

Marlo Thinnes | Piano

Life

Marlo Thinnes was born in Saarbrücken, Germany.

His father was an accordionist and a music school director.

It was thanks to this that he was introduced to various instruments early on in his life.

At the age of roughly nine he began to take a keen interest in the piano and its potential; he learned almost everything by ear deciphering complex piano pieces he listened to on records without the help of a teacher.

Although destined to become a professional musician, his path was hindered by the premature death of his father which consequently led to a change in lifestyle that did not allow him to progress with his musical studies. From 1994 –2000 he was the artistic as well as administrative director of his deceased father's music school, formerly one of the biggest, unsubsidised private music schools in south west Germany.

From 1997 he began to study piano at the University of Music (hfm) with Professor Robert Leonardy. Another influential teacher, mentor and father figure was Cortot-alumni and -assistant, professor Jean Micault, under whose tuition Thinnes developed a repertoire of the main romantics, in particular, Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt.

Marlo Thinnes completed his piano studies (M.Mus., soloist diploma) with distinction.

He has been the first prize winner of a number of international competitions, was holder of a Meindel scholarship and has performed in some of Europe's most famous concert halls including the Albert Hall in London, the Bastille Operahouse in Paris and the dell' Annunziata Auditorium in Sulmona, (Italy).

His vast repertoire includes major works from Scarlatti to Strawinsky, with an emphasis on the classical-romantic era, as well as rarer pieces, his own compositions and arrangements and a selection of 21 century music. His solo-album, Ombre et Lumière (Shadow and Light) recorded under the telos music label was released at the end of autumn 2016.

In 2017 he has started with his friend and colleague Thomas Betz a *Beethovenmarathon*, which brought the 32 piano sonatas in 8 recitals on stage. Always sold out and live recorded by the German radio SR2.

Marlo Thinnes is the co-founder and recent artistic director of *Klassik auf Birkhausen*, a concert series which takes place in a riding area at an equestrian centre close to Zweibrücken, built in 1744. Lots of acclaimed international artists performing there.

(learn more: birkhausen.com)

Since 2018 he performs as well with the great violinist Ingolf Turban, with the focal point on Beethoven's sonatas for piano and violin.

He lives with his wife, the soprano Laureen Thinnes-Stoulig and their two daughters in France.