János S. Darvas – Biography

János S. Darvas was born in Santiago de Chile in 1948. His parents, Hungarian Jews, had fled to South America. A few months after his birth, the family returned to Hungary.

From 1965 to 1969 he studied music at the Béla Bartók Conservatory in Budapest. He emigrated to Germany in 1969 and settled in Cologne, where he continued his percussion studies with Christoph Caskel until 1973. Between 1970 and 1974 he also worked with Karlheinz Stockhausen. His audiovisual composition "Hörfilm" premiered at the ISCM World Music Days in Bonn in 1977. In 1978 and 1979, he worked as a first assistant director on numerous television music productions and documentaries, alongside various editorial assignments. Since 1980 he has worked as a freelance documentary filmmaker and television director, specializing in classical music.

Among others, he has written and directed the following documentaries:

Mendelssohn, His Last Journey (WDR/SWF, 1980)

Friedrich Gulda - A Portrait (LOFT/Bodo Kessler Film, 1981)

Paderewski - Pianist and Prime Minister (WDR, 1984)

Zoltán Kocsis - A Portrait (WDR, 1987)

Spoleto – Thirty Years Festival of Two Worlds (WDR, 1987)

But for Women - Dr. Brahms. Johannes Brahms (Metropolitan, 1996)

Antonio Pappano - A Portrait (Metropolitan, 2000)

György Kurtág - Master Class (Metropolitan, 2000)

Igor Stravinsky: Composer (Metropolitan, 2001)

The Hungarian Touch (Idéale Audience, 2002)

Paul Abraham (WDR/arte, 2008)

The Genius of Haydn (WDR/arte, 2009)

Coming Home (EuroArts/WDR/arte/IBA, 2011)

Zimmermann: Requiem for a Young Poet (with Thorsten Fricke) (WDR, 2014)

Sergei Rachmaninoff in Dresden (EuroArts/MDR/arte, 2018)

The Gypsy Influence (EuroArts/MDR/arte, 2020)

András Schiff: Indirect Nostalgia (In development)

Other key activities include premium multi-camera productions for the screen: live broadcasts and recordings of concerts, opera, and theater performances for television, DVD, Blu-ray, cinema, and streaming.

He has worked in Vienna, Salzburg, Berlin, Bayreuth, Cologne, Munich, Rome, Spoleto, Lugano, Paris, Brussels, London, Madrid, Budapest, Prague, New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Buenos Aires, and Tel Aviv.

János S. Darvas has directed numerous programs with the following artists, among others:

Claudio Abbado, Francisco Araiza, Martha Argerich, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Agnes Baltsa, Daniel Barenboim, Elena Bashkirova, Joshua Bell, Pierre Boulez, Sergiu Celibidache, Kyung Wha Chung, James Conlon, Plácido Domingo, Vladimir Feltsman, James Galway, Daniele Gatti, Andrej Gawrilow, Alan Gilbert, Friedrich Gulda, Nicolaus Harnoncourt, Philippe Herreweghe, Marek Janowski, Janine Jansen, Neeme Järvi, Kim Kashkashian, Evgeny Kissin, Zoltán Kocsis, Katia & Marielle Labèque, Erich Leinsdorf, James Levine, Radu Lupu, Lorin Maazel, Mischa Maisky, Kurt Masur, Zubin Mehta, Arturo Benedetti Michelangeli, Shlomo Mintz, Roger Norrington, Anne Sofie von Otter, Seiji Ozawa, Antonio Pappano, Krzysztof Penderecki, Itzhak Perlman, Lucia Popp, André Previn, Julian Rachlin, Simon Rattle, Dezső Ránki, Vadim Repin, Helmuth Rilling, Andrea Rost, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, András Schiff, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Christian Thielemann, Michael Tilson Thomas, Jeffrey Tate, Mitsuko Uchida, Maxim Vengerow, David Zinman

Cleveland Quartet, Emerson Quartet, Keller Quartet, Takács Quartet, 12 Cellisten der Berliner Philharmoniker

Berliner Philharmoniker, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, European Community Youth Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Mozarteum-Orchester Salzburg, Münchner Philharmoniker, New York Philharmonic, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Orchestra of Saint Luke's, Philharmonia Orchestra London, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Russian National Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden, WDR Sinfonieorchester, Wiener Philharmoniker

Michael Brecker, Miles Davis, Bobby McFerrin, Stephane Grappelli, Herbie Hancock, Keith Jarrett, Carlos Santana, Cecil Taylor, The Modern Jazz Quartet, Wayne Shorter, McCoy Tyner, Joe Zawinul.

For further information please visit www.darvas.de