

Helmut Deutsch

is professor for organ playing at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart (University of Music Stuttgart).

He was born in german-french border town Saarlouis/Germany and studied piano, church music, musical education and organ (graduating with a Concert diploma) at the Saar Music College (Hochschule für Musik und Theater Saar) in Saarbrücken.

His professors there were Walter Blankenheim (piano), Paul Schneider and Andreas Rothkopf (organ). He gained further artistic inspiration from private lessons with the organists Xavier Darasse (Toulouse) and Zsigmond Szathmáry (Freiburg).

Helmut Deutsch was awarded first prize in the Walter Giesecking Competition Saarbrücken, the International Organ Competition “Dom zu Speyer” and the International Franz Liszt Competition in Budapest.

He has toured many times in most European countries and has travelled to Russia, South Korea and Japan. He is also in demand as a juror at international music competitions (International Organ Competition St Albans, Grand Prix André Marchal Biarritz, Mendelssohn Competition Berlin amongst others) and gives masterclasses on organ-playing courses in Germany and beyond (International organ Academy Haarlem, Colleges of Berlin, Danzig, Cologne, Copenhagen, London, Seoul, Tokyo).

Helmut Deutsch has transcribed major orchestral and piano works for the organ, for instance: Jean Sibelius, Symphony Number 2 in D major op. 43 (commissioned by the Kyoto Concert Hall Society); Franz Liszt, Les Préludes (Bärenreiter); Après une lecture de Dante (Schott).

In 2004, he was awarded the “Diapason d’or” critics’ prize by the French music magazine Diapason for his recording of Franz Liszt’s great organ works.

From 2000 until 2013, before his nomination to Stuttgart, Helmut Deutsch taught as organ professor at the University of Music in Freiburg.

He has been a regular guest professor at the Royal Academy of Music in London since 2004.

Central to his performances is his intense engagement with historic organs of varied stylistic periods and provenance, along with his interest in diverse types of instrument and music.