

## Zsombor Tóth-Vajna (Organ/Hungary)

Zsombor Tóth-Vajna, a keyboard specialist and conductor, is one of the leading figures of the young musician generation in Hungary. He studied playing the harpsichord and the organ at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest with Borbala Dobozy and Miklós Spányi as his mentors, where he graduated with the highest honours, and where he is a guest teacher now. He continued his studies at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. He was taught by Menno van Delft (harpsichord, clavichord) and Richard Egarr (harpsichord, fortepiano), and on the organ by the legendary Jacques van Oortmerssen. He also holds a degree in medicine from Semmelweis University, Budapest. He is a research fellow at the Royal College of Music in London where he is currently doing a PhD. He has given recitals in many European countries and in the United States of America as a soloist (harpsichord, organ, clavichord, fortepiano), conductor and as continuo in various orchestras. Zsombor has participated with András Batta in the production of television and radio programmes by request of the Hungarian Television and Radio, aimed at the promotion of traditional keyboard music. He is the founder and artistic director of Hungarian baroque orchestra Harmonia Caelestis (founded in 2015) in Budapest, and he is a passionate piano four hands player with his partner and twin brother, Gergely under the name Piano e Forte Duo. He attended keyboard masterclasses with Pierre Hantai, Skip Sempé, Ton Koopman, Masaaki Suzuki, Malcolm Bilson, Lorenzo Ghielmi, Christine Schornsheim, Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini, Rita Papp and Hans Fagius, sources of inspiration and encouragement up until his most recent accomplishments. As an organ player, he is an expert of historical instruments: he played concerts on several important organs such as the famous Christian Müller organ in St. Bavo Haarlem and Waalse Kerk Amsterdam, the Schnitger organs in Hamburg and Alkmaar, and the „Bach Organ” in the Thomaskirche, Leipzig, only a few meters away from the esteemed master’s resting place. As a harpsichordist, he played under the guidance of Sigiswald Kuijken, Richard Egarr. His field of study is the 17th and 18th century English keyboard music. He recorded 7 solo recordings until today for different labels. Zsombor Tóth-Vajna was awarded Semmelweis University’s most prestigious Kerpel Prize in 2013 and was elected among the 50 most talented young Hungarians by the magazine La Femme in 2015. Zsombor also received the grant for the talented youth in Hungary (Nemzet Tehetségeiért Ösztöndíj) and is a member of the first Hungarian Templeton Program as a junior fellow. In 2019 he received the prestigious Hungarian Bach Prize.