



## Ernst Kovacic Biography

### Violin / Conductor

*“One of the most creative and accomplished violinists worldwide”* The Sunday Times

Website [www.ernstkovacic.com](http://www.ernstkovacic.com)  
Contact Costa Peristianis  
Email [costa@ikonarts.com](mailto:costa@ikonarts.com)

ikon|arts  
management

Ikon Arts Management Ltd  
Suite 114, Business Design  
Centre  
52 Upper Street,  
London N1 0QH  
t: +44 (0)20 7354 9199

---

Vienna, with its fruitful tension between tradition and innovation, inspires the Austrian violinist and conductor Ernst Kovacic.

Ernst Kovacic is a leading performer throughout Europe and the USA. His recent guest engagements include appearances with the Vienna Philharmonic and Vienna Symphony, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic, Prague Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Budapest Symphony, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Tivoli Symphony and the Radio Symphony Orchestras of Berlin, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Sudwestfunk, Hessischer Rundfunk, Norddeutscher Rundfunk and the Konzerthausorchester Berlin among many others.

Ernst makes frequent international festival appearances. He gave a critically-acclaimed performance of the Schoenberg Violin Concerto at the BBC Proms and has appeared at the Edinburgh Festival, the major festivals of Berlin, Vienna and Salzburg, as well as the Ultima Oslo and Prague Autumn Festivals.

Increasingly busy as a conductor, Ernst has been the artistic director of the Leopoldinum Chamber Orchestra in Wroclaw, Poland since 2007. He has directed the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Northern Sinfonia, Camerata Salzburg, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, Klangforum, Ensemble Modern, Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Bern, Camerata Nordica, Zagreb Philharmonic and the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. He has also toured Japan conducting the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, of which he was Artistic Director from 1996 to 1998.

Ernst's repertory is prodigious and includes all the major works for violin of the baroque, classical and romantic periods. His special energy and commitment to contemporary music makes him a much sought-after collaborator in the creation of new compositions. Composers who have written pieces especially for him include Friedrich Cerha, HK Gruber, G.F. Haas, Beat Furrer, Ernst Krenek, Kurt Schwertsik, Ivan Erod, Robin Holloway, Nigel Osborne and Helmut Eder. His most recent world première performances have been of the violin concertos by Beat Furrer (with the Vienna Philharmonic), G.F. Haas, Cerha, and Django Bates.

Ernst's recordings include Friedrich Cerha's violin concerto with the Radio Symphonieorchester Wien, works by Beethoven and Schoenberg with the Wroclaw Chamber Orchestra, Krenek's 2nd Violin Concerto with RSO Wien and Symphonic Elegy with his own Leopoldinum Orchestra, Sir Michael Tippett's Triple Concerto with the composer conducting the BBC Philharmonic, Mozart's complete works for violin and orchestra with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Robin Holloway's Concerto (which received the Music Retailers' Association award for best concerto recording of the year) and HK Gruber's Nebelsteinmusik with the Camerata Salzburg and Franz Welser-Möst for EMI Classics. Ernst's CD releases (with the Leopoldinum Orchestra) include Lutostawski's Preludes and Fugue for 13 solo strings (on CD Accord); "The Art of Fugue", presenting works by Purcell, Bach, Mozart, Schumann, Reinecke, Moskowski, Honegger, Villa lobos, Zeisl and Britten (on CD Accord), and a disc of works by Hanna Kulenty on DUX.

Ernst Kovacic was born in Kapfenberg, Austria, and studied at the Academy of Music in Vienna. He is the winner of several major prizes at international competitions, including Geneva, Barcelona and Munich. He currently plays a 1754 Guadagnini violin.