

CHRISTIAN BENNING – MULTI PERCUSSIONIST

Hailed by the press as “phenomenal” (Sueddeutsche Zeitung), a “rhythmic genius” (Die ZEIT) and “full of elegant perfection” (Köbe Newspaper), multi-percussionist Christian Benning’s recent performances have attracted widespread attention worldwide.

His concerts, both as a soloist and with his ensemble Christian Benning Percussion Group, have taken place in the world’s most prestigious concert halls, including Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Glocke Bremen, Herkulesaal and Prinzregententheater Munich, Beethoven House Bonn, Musikverein Graz, Milan Cathedral, Mies van der Rohe Pavilion Barcelona, Borusan Music House Istanbul, Théâtre de la Ville Paris, George Enescu Hall Bucharest, Church of the Redeemer Jerusalem, Egyptian State Opera Cairo, Royal Opera House in Muscat, Griswold Hall Baltimore and at the United Nations in New York. He and his Percussion Group staged the first percussion concert at the Sagrada Família in Barcelona, and in 2024, as part of a North American tour, they performed at venues including the National Mall in Washington D.C. as well as at the Biennale Musica in Venice. In 2025, he appeared in Japan (including Kobe, Tokyo, Yokohama and at the Expo’25), Hong Kong and Peru.

In 2027, his Percussion Group’s debut album will be released and presented as part of an extensive tour of China.

Concerts took him across Asia, Africa, Europe and North America, this versatile percussionist performs regularly with renowned ensembles and instrumentalists. His chamber music projects include collaborations with Simone Rubino, Juan de la Rubia, Hansjoerg Albrecht, Cameron Carpenter, Johannes Obermeier, Arcis Saxophone Quartet and Neeb Piano Duo, amongst others. Concerts in these line-ups have taken him to Rheingau Music Festival, Heidelberg Spring, La Folle Journée and Teatro Romano di Verona.

His musical expressiveness has already enriched numerous recording projects (including own compositions) in collaboration with German channels Deutschlandfunk, BR, SWR, HR, WDR and NDR; these have been released on labels such as Genuin, Prospero and Audite.

Christian Benning is involved in a long-term interdisciplinary collaboration with Holger Geschwindner and basketball legend Dirk Nowitzki. As part of this, he has developed a rhythm-based training method for professional sport and, in particular, team sports, including visualisation software, for which his company Be the Beat GmbH holds an international patent. Since 2022, he has been working on a PhD in the field of sports psychology at Brunel University of London and has already been awarded two research prizes. In 2023, he was Artist-in-Residence at the Young Artists Festival in Bayreuth. In 2024, he was awarded the Westphalian Music Prize and in 2026, he received the Music Prize from the Bavarian State Capital of Munich.

His passion for sharing his artistic expertise regularly takes him to academies and masterclasses at conservatoires in Germany, Italy, Spain, Romania, Israel and Mauritius.

At the Munich University of Music and Theatre, Christian Benning completed final studies with a concert examination (Excellence in Performance, 2026) under the tutelage of Peter Sadlo, Arnold Riedhammer, Raymond Curfs, Adel Shalaby and Alexej Gerassimez. He gained further study experience in the USA with Robert van Sice at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University and at the Yale School of Music. Masterclasses and joint concerts with Evelyn Glennie, Martin Grubinger, Lang Lang, András Schiff, Leon Fleisher, Kent Nagano and Axel Milberg have provided further formative artistic inspiration.

Christian Benning is endorsed by Meinl Cymbals, Meinl Percussion, Meinl Stick&Brush, SchlagZu, AlternateMode and vanLaack, and has been a Yamaha Artist since 2023.

Season 2026/27