

Biography

Frank Strobel

Conductor

www.frankstrobel.de



A conductor whose international reputation is built on repertoire of unusual stylistic diversity. Frank Strobel has long been recognised as a leading figure in the space where film meet music. In particular, he has played a crucial role in bringing film concerts into leading opera houses and concert halls.

From the 21/22 season he assumes the role of Chief Conductor of Cologne's WDR Funkhausorchester.

Frank Strobel grew up in his parents' cinema in Munich. As a 16-year-old he obtained a piano score of the original music for Fritz Lang's cinematic masterpiece *Metropolis*. He arranged it for two pianos and then played it to accompany the film, with such success that many more such screenings followed. In 2008 an original copy of *Metropolis* was discovered in Buenos Aires; two years later a fully restored version of the film was premiered at the Berlinale, with Frank Strobel conducting the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin.

In 2006 at Dresden's Semperoper he conducted the Staatskapelle Dresden to accompany a reconstruction of the film of *Der Rosenkavalier* with Richard Strauss's original music. Having reconstructed Sergei Prokofiev's music for Eisenstein's films *Alexander Nevsky* and *Ivan the Terrible*, Strobel conducted the first performances of his realisations at the Musikfest Berlin. Further performances followed at the Vienna Konzerthaus in 2017.

Another important collaboration with the Musikfest Berlin came to fruition in 2019 in both Berlin and Lyon: Abel Gance's seven-hour silent epic *La Roue*, with a score specially assembled from 117 works written by French composers between 1880 and 1920.

Beyond the world of film music, Frank Strobel has achieved international recognition for his first performances and revivals of works by Franz Schreker, Alexander von Zemlinsky und Siegfried Wagner. The great Russian composer Alfred Schnittke (1934-1998) found Frank Strobel congenial, considering him an ideal interpreter of his works. Strobel now retains the adaptation rights for Schnittke's music.

In 2002 Frank Strobel and Beate Warkentien established the Europäische FilmPhilharmonie, an institution dedicated to the artistic development of music and film in the concert hall. This has given rise to such ambitious projects as *Matrix Live* at London's Royal Albert Hall.

Of special significance in this context is Strobel's role as an adviser to the TV station ZDF/ARTE on its programming of silent films and this has resulted in notable performances of silent films to the accompaniment of legendary musical works.

Frank Strobel has been particularly at home in the French music scene for some time. He conducted the film music for the feature film "Kaamelott: Premier Volet" by producer, actor and composer Alexandre Astier in spring 2021. The premiere of the film music concert "With a smile" took place under his direction at the Philharmonie de Paris with the Orchestre de Paris. Frank Strobel is also a repeated guest at the "Festival Lumière. Grand Lyon Film Festival". In February 2021, he conducted parts of the evening of the "Victoires de la Musique."

Frank Strobel enjoys close artistic ties with the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Orchestre National de Lyon, London Symphony Orchestra, the radio orchestras of Berlin, Frankfurt, Hannover und Leipzig, the Alte Oper Frankfurt, Cologne Philharmonie, Paris Philharmonie and Vienna Konzerthaus.

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