

Biography

Frank Strobel

Conductor

www.frankstrobel.de



Frank Strobel, who believes in transcending perceived divisions between artistic genres, is renowned as a conductor, arranger, editor, producer and studio musician. He has been active for many years in the space where films meet music and is a leading figure in the field of film in concert. He has taken silent movies into opera houses and concert halls and is also admired as a conductor of concert repertoire of the Classical and Romantic eras and the 20th century.

Born in Munich in 1966, Strobel grew up in his parents' cinema and gained skills as a projectionist at an early age. He remains fascinated by film and soundtracks. As a 16-year-old he obtained a piano score of Gottfried Huppertz's original music for Fritz Lang's cinematic masterpiece *Metropolis*, which he rearranged and then played to accompany the film, arrangements have since been performed numerous times. *Metropolis* again played a determining role in Strobel's career after an original copy of the film was discovered in 2008 in Buenos Aires. He played an active role in its reconstruction, having recreated Huppertz's scores for both *Metropolis* and Lang's two-part film *Die Nibelungen*. The much-anticipated premiere of the restored version of *Metropolis* took place at the 2010 Berlin International Film Festival with Strobel conducting the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra. It was broadcast live on the TV channel arte and projected onto Berlin's Brandenburg Gate.

Strobel is also in demand internationally for performances of music by the late-Romantic composers Franz Schreker, Alexander von Zemlinsky and Siegfried Wagner, whose works he has both revived and premiered. His open-minded musical philosophy struck a chord with the great Russian-born composer Alfred Schnittke, who came to see Strobel as an ideal interpreter of his works and commissioned him to make concert suites from a selection of his 60 or so film scores; this led to recordings with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, which in 2005 and 2006 received the *Deutscher Schallplattenpreis*. Recordings of Schnittke's three piano concertos, with Eva Kupiec as soloist have also been released. As early as 1992 Strobel had conducted the world premiere in Frankfurt's Alte Oper of Schnittke's *End of St Petersburg*, written to accompany Vsevolod Pudovkin's silent film. Strobel also reconstructed and published Prokofiev's score for Eisenstein's *Alexander Nevsky*, conducting the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra in the world premiere of his edition at the German capital's Konzerthaus in 2004; this was followed by a performance at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre. In 2006, at Dresden's Semperoper Strobel conducted the Sächsische Staatskapelle for a screening of Robert Wiene's 1925 film of *Der Rosenkavalier*, with the reconstructed Strauss' original orchestral score. A much more recent film, the science fiction extravaganza *The Matrix* was screened at London's

Royal Albert Hall in 2011, with Don Davis' score performed live by the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover under Strobel. The event was subsequently repeated elsewhere. 2014 brought the commemoration of the outbreak of World War I with the world premiere at the Salle Pleyel in Paris of Philippe Schoeller's newly-written score for Abel Gance's 1919 film, *J'accuse*; Frank Strobel conducted the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. In 2016 Frank Strobel realised the reconstructed film *Iwan Grozny* by Sergei Eisenstein, which was premiered at the Musikfest Berlin, performed by the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra (RSB) and the Berlin Radio Choir. This "film opera", which contains the complete music in its' original orchestration by Sergei Prokofiev as well as chants of the Russian-Orthodox liturgy, Frank Strobel also performed with the Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna for the closing of their 2016-2017 season at the Konzerthaus Vienna.

Frank Strobel enjoys close relationships in Germany with Berlin Radio Symphony, Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony, NDR Radio Philharmonic Hannover, Staatskapelle Weimar and internationally with the Finnish Radio Symphony, London Symphony, Orchestre National de Lyon and Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg orchestras; and with major concert halls such as the Cologne Philharmonie, the Paris Philharmonie and the Vienna Konzerthaus.

In the 2017/2018 season, among Frank Strobel's many film-related concerts are *The Love of Jeanne Ney* with the WDR Funkhausorchester Cologne, *Alexander Nevsky* with the Finnish Radio Symphony, *October* with the London Symphony, *Der Rosenkavalier* with the Staatsphilharmonie Nürnberg, *Three wishes for Cinderella* with the Staatskapelle Weimar, *The Artist* with the Berlin Radio Symphony, *Tartuff* with the Radio Symphony Vienna and *Blancanieves* with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestras. Return engagements include Tonhalle Zurich, Qatar Philharmonic, Gothenburg Symphony, MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony, Norddeutsche Philharmonie Rostock and NDR Radio Philharmonic Hannover orchestras. He dedicates two extensive evenings to "Cinéma Variété" with the orchestra of Komische Oper Berlin and gives his debut with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Philharmonie in Paris. A programme devoted to Robert Mitchum will be realised with Bremer Philharmoniker and singer Dominique Horwitz.

Frank Strobel was Chief Conductor of the German Film Orchestra Babelsberg, he acts as an adviser to ZDF/arte for its silent film programming. In 2000, he co-founded with Beate Warkentien the EUROPEAN FILMPHILHARMONIC INSTITUTE. This cultural institution has built a reputation for its expertise in authentic performances of film scores.

2017/2018

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