



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.

Strobel grew up in the surroundings of his parents' cinema in Munich and was fascinated by the marriage of image and music. 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. The final arrangement of *Metropolis* has again played a determining role in Strobel's career after an original copy of the film was discovered in Buenos Aires in 2008. The much-anticipated premiere of the restored version of *Metropolis* took place at the 2010 Berlin International Film Festival with Strobel conducting the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin.

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 film scores; this led to recordings with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, which in 2005 and 2006 received the *Deutscher Schallplattenpreis*. 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 Konzerthaus Berlin 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 Frank Strobel and the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover. 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, for the first time performed with the complete music in its' original orchestration by Sergei Prokofiev with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin (RSB) at the Musikfest Berlin, followed by a

performance with Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna in 2017. In 2018 Frank Strobel conducted the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin for the reconstructed and restored version of the silent film *J'accuse*. This was the first part of an Abel Gance series during the Musikfest Berlin, which will be continued at this year's festival with the enormous epic silent film *La Roue* (with the original compilation of 117 works by French composers from 1880 to 1920). *La Roue* will be performed also with the Orchestre National de Lyon at the Lumière Festival.

Further highlights of the 2019/2020 season include three major film (music) concerts with the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, appearances at the "Focus Festival" of the Alte Oper Frankfurt with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, as well as the premiere of the new Chaplin film project "With a Smile" at the Philharmonie Paris with the Orchestre de Paris. The silent film classic "Metropolis" will be premiered in France with the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence in summer 2019 and in Switzerland with the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich in 2020. Frank Strobel will return to the Grafenegg Festival, the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra, the MDR Symphony Orchestra, the NDR Radio Philharmonic Hannover, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna and the Staatskapelle Weimar, where the silent film *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* will be screened with a new music compilation. The coming season will also see Frank Strobel's debuts with the Belgian National Orchestra and the New Japan Philharmonic.

Frank Strobel enjoys close and long lasting relationships with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, the MDR Symphony Orchestra Leipzig, the NDR Radio Philharmonic Hannover, the Orchestre National de Lyon, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich; with the Cologne and Paris Philharmonie as well as the Vienna Konzerthaus.

Frank Strobel 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.

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