



© Photos Caroline Dautre

Pianist, composer and conductor, Francois Weigel studied piano and composition at the Cologne Musikhochschule, conducting at the Ecole Normale Supérieure de Musique de Paris, and analysis, piano and chamber music at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris where he won several first prizes. He had advanced piano studies with Günther Ludwig, Yvonne Loriod, Olivier Messiaen, Alexis Weissenberg.

He regularly performs throughout Europe, including in Vienna, Salzburg, Graz, Klagenfurt, in the Berlin Philharmonie, in Hamburg, Bonn, Essen, Brussels, Geneva, Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger, Warsaw, Katowice, Riga, Tallinn, Belgrade, Zagreb, Ljubljana, Naples, Verone, Stresa, in Paris, Salle Gaveau, Théâtre du Châtelet, Salle Pleyel, in the international festivals of Evian, Aix-en-Provence, Radio-France-Montpellier, Flâneries de Reims, La Roque d'Anthéron, Peralada, Ravello, but also in the operas of Lille, Versailles, Avignon, Tours, Marseille, Nancy, Mexico, Buenos Aires, Dallas.

He is invited internationally as soloist in a wide range of concertos throughout Europe as well as the Americas. He has played with the Hamburg Philharmonic (Ingo Metzmacher), Orchestre de la Suisse Romande (Pinchas Steinberg), Philharmonique de Radio-France (Marek Janowski), Orchestre National de Lille (Paul Polivnick), Orchestre National d'Ile de France (Jacques Mercier), Orchestre National de Lorraine (Gisèle Ben-Dor), Orchestre Philharmonique de Montpellier (Enrique Diemecke), Nouvel Orchestre de Saint-Etienne (Patrick Fournillier), Orchestre Symphonique de Mulhouse (Daniel Klajner), Philharmonie des Nations (Laurence Dale), the Mexico National University Philharmonic Orchestra (Carlos Miguel Prieto), the Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra (Emil Tabakov), the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra (Alexei Kornienko), the Cairo Symphonic Orchestra (Ahmed El-Saedi), the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra (Nicolai Alexeev), the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra (Antoni Wit).

He has also conducted the Chamber Orchestra from Bratislava, the Latvia Chamber Orchestra, the Ankara Bilkent Symphonic Orchestra, and the Zagreb Chamber Orchestra with his own orchestra transcriptions. The Paris Bastille Opera has regularly invited him as chorus master, to prepare notably contemporary repertoire including Adriana Mater by Kaija Saariaho, Saint François d'Assise by Messiaen, and also the German repertoire (Wozzeck, Tannhäuser, Die Frau ohne Schatten).

He has considerable experience in chamber music, partnering the Belvedere Trio (members of the Wiener Philharmonic) and the Amarcord Quartet (soloists from the Berliner Philharmonic). He also gave numerous recitals with singers such as Inva Mula, Sophie Koch, Laurence Dale, Ferruccio Furlanetto, Ruggero Raimondi. He gives annual public conferences in Austria.

Difficult to categorise, François Weigel is an recognised exponent of baroque music which he particularly loves, but also can be heard sharing the stage with DJ Doctor Bone (the darling of New York dance floor music) or in live improvisation on radio France Musique on themes created by notes given by the public. He gives two pianos sessions with the French jazzman player Pierre de Bethmann.

François Weigel appears regularly on radio and television across Europe, on TF1 with Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, France Télévision with Eve Ruggieri, Patrick de Carolis, LCI, France Inter with Frederic Lodeon, Stéphane Bern, die Deutsche Welle. He has given piano recitals on the Radio Suisse Romande, die Deutsche Rundfunk, the Norwegian National Radio, Radio Classique and France Musique.

His Messiaen's Turangalila CD for Naxos with the Polish Radio National Orchestra has been universally acclaimed in the international press as the recording of reference. Equally highly praised by the Monde de la Musique (Choc) and Repertoire (10/10), and elected "best month's CD" by Rondo, "Editor's Choice" by Gramophone. The recording also won the international "Classical Music Award" from the Midem.

François Weigel has received several distinctions among which the prizes of the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation, the Philip Morris Foundation, the Yves Saint Laurent Foundation, and the French academic palms for his artistic action in the high schools.

© Valmalete/TransArt francoisweigel.com

"A splendid soloist, as technically secure and musically as any. An incredible delight."

BBC Music Magazine 12/2000

"A smooth as silk playing, a spine tingling sensitivity, the soul's touch..."

Ouest France 12/11/1999

"A complete artist, at once pianist, composer and conductor. Irresistible !"

Le Figaro 20/01/2010