



© 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 is invited internationally as soloist in a wide range of concertos, throughout Europe as well as the Americas, with the Hamburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio-France, Orchestre National de Lille, Orchestre National d'Île de France, Orchestre National de Lorraine, Orchestre Philharmonique de Montpellier, Nouvel Orchestre de Saint-Etienne, Orchestre Symphonique de Mulhouse, Philharmonie des Nations, the Mexico National University Philharmonic Orchestra, the Serbian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra, the Cairo Symphonic Orchestra, the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra.

He has collaborated with distinguished conductors such as Ingo Metzmacher, Pinchas Steinberg, Marek Janowski, Jacques Mercier, Paul Polivnick, Gisèle Ben-Dor, Peter Burian, Enrique Diemecke, Patrick Fournillier, Daniel Klajner, Alexei Kornienko, Marc Piollet, Carlos Miguel Prieto, Ahmed El-Saedi, Emil Tabakov, Antoni Wit.

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 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 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, Ariadne, Die Frau ohne Schatten).

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, 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**