

Ralf Weikert

Dirigent

Ralf Weikert is one of the most experienced Austrian opera and concert conductors with a high international reputation. He was Chief Conductor of Theater Bonn, deputy GMD at the Frankfurter Opera and Principal Conductor at the Mozarteumorchester and Salzburger Landestheater. From 1983-1992 Weikert was Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Opernhaus Zürich and from 2004-2015 Music Director of the Richard Wagner Festival Wels, Austria.



In addition to being Chief Conductor at several opera houses Ralf Weikert has been working as a freelance conductor at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Metropolitan Opera in New York and the San Francisco Opera. Furthermore, he was a frequent guest at the Wiener Staatsoper, the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, the Opernhaus Zürich, the Hamburg State Opera, the Semperoper Dresden, the Royal Swedish Opera, the Dutch National Opera, the Finnish National Opera, the New National Theatre Tokyo, the Korea National Opera, the Opéra national de Paris and the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona. In addition, was he a regular guest at the Salzburg Festival, the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, the Bregenz Festival and the Festival of the Arena di Verona. Numerous LP and CD recordings of opera and concert repertoire as well as radio and TV- productions in Europe and in the USA took place under his baton. His recording of Rossini's "Barber of Seville" with Edita Gruberova was awarded the "Echo Classic-Award 2005".

On the concert podium, Ralf Weikert worked together with top class orchestras from around the world such as the Berliner Philharmoniker and Vienna Philharmonic, Wiener Symphoniker, ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra Hamburg, Dresdner Philharmonic, Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi, Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale Rai, Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre national du Capitole de Toulouse, Orquesta Filarmónica de Gran Canaria, Czech Philharmonic, Zagreb Philharmonic, Slovak Philharmonic in Bratislava, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, English Chamber Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Academy of St Martin in the Field, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, NHK-Symphony Orchestra Tokyo, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, New Japan Philharmonic, etc.

Ralf Weikert was born in St. Florian (Austria) and received his first musical training at the Bruckner-Konservatorium in Linz. He completed his studies at the Vienna Music Academy under the legendary Professor Hans Swarowsky.

In 1965, Weikert won the First Prize at the „Nicolai Malko Competition“ in Copenhagen. One year later he was granted the „Mozart Interpretation Prize“ by the Austrian Minister of Culture. In 1975 the „Karl Böhm-Award“ was presented to him from the great conductor himself.

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