



DR. RAAB & DR. BÖHM
KÜNSTLERAGENTUR

Johannes Kalitzke

Conductor and Composer

Johannes Kalitzke is internationally renowned as a conductor and composer, particularly in the field of contemporary music. His guest conducting engagements have taken him to prestigious events such as the Salzburg Festival, Wiener Festwochen, Wien Modern, Berliner Festspiele, Warsaw Autumn and the Venice Biennale. He has conducted ensembles such as Klangforum Wien, Collegium Novum Zürich and Ensemble Modern, as well as classical symphony orchestras including the radio orchestras of NDR Hamburg, SWR Stuttgart, BR Munich, DSO and RSB Berlin, and the ORF RSO Vienna.



In addition, Johannes Kalitzke appears regularly as an opera conductor at e.g. the Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Staatstheater Stuttgart, and Musiktheater an der Wien. His conducting of Chaya Czernowin's opera "Heart Chamber" at the Deutsche Oper Berlin (world premiere in 2019) and Kurtág's long-awaited opera "Fin de Partie" at the Theater Dortmund (German premiere in 2024) attracted particular international attention. Kalitzke also conducted this work at the Opera Ballet Vlaanderen for a symphonic performance in Antwerp.

In the 2025/26 season, Kalitzke will conduct the new production and German premiere of Olga Neuwirth's opera "Orlando" at the Komische Oper Berlin and has been invited back to the Sofia Philharmonic in Bulgaria and the Slovenian Philharmonic in Ljubljana. With the Bruckner Orchestra Linz, he will make a guest appearance at the Festival "Johann Strauss 2025" in Vienna; the program includes the world premiere of a new "waltz symphony" composed young students; developed in cooperation with the Ars Electronica Futurelab this new work explores how artificial intelligence and human creativity interact.

Johannes Kalitzke equally continues to focus on orchestral music for Expressionist silent film, most recently with his composition "The Tales of Hoffmann" for Max Neufeld's film, performed with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin as well as at Theater Essen.

As a composer, Kalitzke has received commissions from the Donaueschinger Musiktage, Ultraschall Berlin, Wittener Tage für Neue Musik, Musica Viva, and numerous radio orchestras. In addition, the Augsburg Philharmonic Orchestra commissioned orchestral music for the silent film "Die Weber" (1927) in 2011. Kalitzke's first opera, "Bericht über den Tod des Musikers Jack Tiergarten", was premiered at the Munich Biennale in 1996. His second, "Molière oder die Henker des Komödianten", was a commission from the state of Schleswig-Holstein and was premiered in Bremen as well as its successor "Inferno" in 2004. He was also commissioned to write an opera based on Witold Gombrowicz's novel "The Possessed" for the Theater an der Wien and his opera "Pym" (based on the novel by Edgar Allan Poe) was premiered at Theater Heidelberg in 2016, followed by the church film opera "Jeanne d'Arc" at the Carinthian Summer Festival in 2021. Most recently in 2022, "Kapitän Nemos Bibliothek" was premiered at the Schwetzingen and Bregenz Festivals.

Born in Cologne, Johannes Kalitzke studied church music, piano (Aloys Kontarsky), conducting (Wolfgang von der Nahmer), composition (York Höller) and electronic music (Hans Ulrich Humpert). He received a scholarship from Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes for studying at IRCAM in Paris. In 2015 he was appointed Professor at the Mozarteum Salzburg. Johannes Kalitzke has received many prizes and awards including Bernd-Alois-Zimmermann-Preis from the city of Cologne and a scholarship for Villa Massimo in 2003. He is a member of the Academy of Arts in Berlin and Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts.

www.johanneskalitzke.com

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Kontakt: Stefan Fragner, Senior Artist Manager | fragner@rbartists.at | +43 660 300 2897

Sarah Niebergall, Assistant Artist Manager | niebergall@rbartists.at | +43 660 300 2902