

FRANK MARKOWITSCH

Frank Markowitsch has made his name as a conductor by the high musical quality of his work, as well as his exciting interdisciplinary concert-programming.

After studies in Philosophy, German Literature and Classical Civilisations at the Albert Ludwig University Freiburg, Frank Markowitsch studied Music Education at the University of the Arts Berlin, and finally Orchestral and Choral Conducting at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin. Among his teachers can be counted Christian Grube, Rolf Reuter and Jörg-Peter Weigle. He received important encouragement from Uwe Gronostay and Vladimir Jurowski, as well as in Masterclasses with the RIAS Kammerchor and the International Bach Academy Stuttgart under Helmuth Rilling.

This multifaceted pathway is reflected in Frank Markowitsch's projects, in which he combines the highest artistic standards with the results of deep musicological research and current socio-political and philosophical discussions. One particularly striking example of this multilayered work is the project "Paradise Reloaded? The Creation in the Anthropocene", which takes as its starting point Hadyn's musical celebration of nature, and questions the relationship of society with the environment.

Some years ago, in order to implement his musical ideas, Frank Markowitsch founded two professional ensembles: in 2010 the Prometheus Ensemble Berlin, which under his artistic direction has been heard in the Konzerthaus Berlin, the Bode Museum and in various concerts in and around Berlin; in 2011 the Vokalakademie Berlin, together with singers from the Innsbruck Festival Chorus, which since then has enriched the musical life of the capital as a first-rate professional vocal ensemble. Outside of Berlin, Frank Markowitsch has performed with his Vokalakademie Berlin at the Musikfest Bremen, KlaraFestival Brüssel and at the Festival de Saint-Denis. The group's debut CD – Alessandro Scarlatti's "Vespro della Beata Vergine" (Rondeau) – was critically acclaimed.

For his projects, the conductor seeks first-rate partner organisations from a variety of social realms. The Postdam Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies accompanied the Creation project with a symposium on "Culture and Nature in the Anthropocene", the University of the Arts presented a performance of Alessandro Scarlatti's Vespro della Beata Vergine as part of an international and interdisciplinary symposium on Composers, Contexts and Performance Practice of Liturgical settings by Baroque composers.

Frank Markowitsch has directed the Chorus of the Junges Ensemble Berlin since 1998, with whom he has regularly created sensational concert projects and won numerous prizes. The group has won the 1st Prize at the Berliner Chortreff several times, and at the German Choir Competition was accorded the grade of "very successful" and received the "Special Prize for the excellent interpretation of a German folksong". Under Frank Markowitsch's direction, the choir released their debut CD in 2014 – Arthur Honegger's "König David" (Rondeau).

In 2012, Frank Markowitsch was asked by Ton Koopman to be the chorusmaster of the Amsterdam Baroque Choir, and the choir has audibly improved under his direction.

To understand art as a form of knowledge, and to pass on his proficiency in this area to the next generation is an important goal for the conductor: after five years as Lecturer (?) in Choral Conducting at the University of the Arts Berlin, Frank Markowitsch was appointed Professor of Choral Conducting at the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg. From 2007 to 2010, he directed the Innsbruck Festival Chorus, an academy project of the Innsbrucker Festwochen der Alten Musik. In 2013, he was the lead conductor of the Opus XXI Summer Academy for Contemporary Music.

Frank Markowitsch is a co-founder of the Vokalfest Chor@Berlin, and a regular guest at international festivals such as the Musikfestspielen Potsdam-Sanssouci, Musikfest Bremen, Rheingau Musik Festival, KlaraFestival Brüssel and the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence.

He works regularly with the RIAS Kammerchor, North German and West German Radio Choirs, Rundfunkchor Berlin, Choeur du Radio France, Balthasar-Neumann-Ensemble, Vocalconsort Berlin and Coro Nacional de España, as well as the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Akademie für Alte Musik, Brandenburger Sinfonikern, the baroque orchester moderntimes_1800, Le Cercle de l'Harmonie and many other orchestras. Also close to the heart of this conductor is opera: to date he has been involved in productions at the Berliner Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Opéra National de Nancy, Opéra Comique de Paris and Opéra de Lille.

Frank Markowitsch has prepared orchestras and choirs for conductors such as Kurt Masur, Seiji Ozawa, Ton Koopman, Thomas Hengelbrock, Marc Minkowski, Ingo Metzmacher, Enoch zu Guttenberg and Jérémie Rhorer. He has a particularly close collaboration with René Jacobs, for whose recordings of Die "Zauberflöte" and "La Rappresentazione di Anima et Corpo" (both for harmonia mundi) he prepared the choruses, similarly for performances of Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 and "L'Orfeo" and Mozart's "Don Giovanni", in Oviedo, Paris, Freiburg, Barcelona, Shanghai and Peking.

(as of June 2015)