



MARC ALBRECHT

Conductor

“With Marc Albrecht, a man of the late romantic era stands on the podium, a man who perfectly balances the exact dose of the Strauss agogic [...] What a Strauss dream in the open air!” – concerti, 2018

Marc Albrecht is one of the most exciting conductors on the current opera and concert scene. He is in great demand internationally as a conductor of the German-Austrian late romantic repertoire, reaching from Wagner and Strauss to Zemlinsky, Schreker and Korngold. He also cultivates with conviction the whole range from

Mozart to contemporary music.

Albrecht’s work with orchestras originates from a chamber music approach, which he transfers to the large orchestra with great empathy: he has a passion for symphony orchestras and knows how to exploit their almost infinite sound possibilities, however at the same time, trying to make the symphonic blend emulate a sound reminiscent of the intimacy of a chamber ensemble. In an astonishing way he succeeds, even in the densely woven symphonies of Bruckner and Mahler, to make the structure clear and let the music breathe, despite all the sound opulence. Albrecht’s approach to music making is a perfect balance of both the analytical and the emotional.

His artistic work has been honoured prolifically in recent years. Under his Music Directorship, the Dutch National Opera was named Europe’s “Opera House of the Year” in 2016. In 2019, Marc Albrecht was named “Conductor of the Year” at the International Opera Awards and one year later was awarded Knight of the Order of the Dutch Lion for his extensive oeuvre. He also received the Prix d’Amis 2020 which is awarded annually by the Friends of Dutch National Opera. Furthermore, the 2017 production of Alban Berg’s “Wozzeck” at the Dutch National Opera was nominated for a Grammy Award in the category “Best Opera Recording” in 2019.

Marc Albrecht has also recorded to great acclaim. His highly-praised recording of “Die Seejungfrau” with the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra (Pentatone, 2020) has been chosen as Recording of the Week by BBC Radio 3 and The Sunday Times comments “Albrecht inspires his orchestra in this late-Romantic score, intoxicated with the chromatic ecstasy of Schoenberg’s Transfigured Night.” The DVD of the lauded production of Korngold’s “Das Wunder der Heliane” at the Deutsche Oper Berlin under Albrecht’s musical direction, released on NAXOS in June 2019, won the 2020 Opus Klassik in the category “Best Opera Recording 20th/21st Century”. In a review about the production, the Berliner Morgenpost concluded that, “The real miracle of the evening happens in the pit. Marc Albrecht savours Korngold’s sound intoxication for a good three hours. With great pleasure he devotes himself to the details that emerge from the waves of sound, exposing layers, only to let them melt together again immediately”.

Together with Christine Goerke, Stephen Gould and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Marc Albrecht returned to the BBC Proms in 2019 with a spectacular “Wagner Night” which earned him a raving review on Bachtrack: “Albrecht lifted this listener out of the concert hall and deposited me in a baleful landscape the like of which I’d never previously encountered in this music. By the careful highlighting of specific solos or sections, then allowing balance to follow naturally, he did more than conquer the Royal Albert Hall’s exuberant acoustic: he exploited it.”

In the 2020/21 season, selected guest engagements will take Marc Albrecht to Milan, Paris, London, Berlin and Tokyo.



Career Development

Marc Albrecht was mentored by Claudio Abbado, as whose assistant, after studying in Vienna and taking on his first positions as répétiteur at the State Operas of Vienna and Hamburg, he helped build up the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra and supervised it for five years. He then held the position of first Kapellmeister at the Semperoper Dresden and in 1995, at the age of 30, became one of the youngest Music Directors in Germany at the Staatstheater Darmstadt.

In 2006 he took over the direction of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, and in 2011 became Chief Conductor of the Dutch National Opera and the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra. A position he held until 2020. In Amsterdam, opera became once again the focus of his work. There he conducted Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte" and "Don Giovanni", Enescu's "Oedipe", Beethoven's "Fidelio", Verdi's "Macbeth", Wagner's "Meistersinger" and "Tannhäuser", Strauss' "Elektra", Schreker's "Der Schatzgräber", Prokofiev's "Der Spieler" and the world premiere of Manfred Trojahn's "Orest". The first fully staged version of Schönberg's "Gurre-Lieder" ever, directed by Pierre Audi in September 2014, as well as Pierre Audi's legendary production of Wagner's "Die Walküre" became milestones in his career.

Elsewhere Marc Albrecht has also conducted operas by Berlioz and Messiaen, Stravinsky, Mussorgsky and Martinů, B. A. Zimmermann and Zemlinsky as well as Berg, Henze and Wagner. Guest engagements have taken him to some of the most renowned opera houses, such Deutsche Oper Berlin, Brussels, Paris and Barcelona, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. He further appeared at the Salzburg Festival and, from 2003 to 2006, the Bayreuther Festspiele. He enjoys the intensive collaboration with directors in opera production and particularly successful collaborations have been with with Katie Mitchell, Christof Loy, Claus Guth, Herbert Fritsch and Krzysztof Warlikowski.

Marc Albrecht is also in great demand on the concert stage and appears with orchestras such as Berliner Philharmoniker, Münchner Philharmoniker, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, Het Concertgebouworkest, Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome, Orchestre National de France, Philharmonia Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and NHK Symphony Orchestra. He has given guest performances in the USA with the The Cleveland Orchestra, Seattle Symphony Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Houston Symphony.

During his time as Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra he has recorded prolifically. Together they have released a variety of discs featuring works by Korngold, Ravel, Dukas, Koechlin, Berg, Schumann, Dvořák, Mahler, Strauss, Brahms and Schönberg on the Pentatone label. Recordings of his opera conducting in Amsterdam are available on the Challenge label. In summer 2020 he presented Alexander Zemlinsky's "Die Seejungfrau" on his latest Pentatone recording, which received raving reviews internationally.