

Titus Engel, Conductor

Biography

The state orchestra performs miracles, the choir does the same as the instrumentalists. What happens here musically is of the utmost magnificence, Titus Engel conducts this highly complex construct with stupendous naturalness.
Süddeutsche Zeitung, Egbert Tholl, 12/6/2023

In 2020 Titus Engel was named Conductor of the Year by Opernwelt magazine. With his comprehensive view of repertoire from a wide range of musical eras, he consistently grasps works in their multifaceted relationality. Respected for his expertise in the field of historical performance practice as well as for his precise conducting of complex contemporary projects, the Berlin-based Zurich native can also be seen regularly performing central works of opera literature - he thrilled audiences with Lohengrin at the Tiroler Festspiele Erl in 2021. Always ready to break new ground in his exploration of staged concepts on the podium, he sees music theatre as a field of experimentation in which social utopias can flourish.

Starting in the 2023/24 season, Titus Engel will take over as Principal Conductor of the Basel Sinfonietta giving his inaugural concert at the Ruhrtriennale Festival. He will collaborate with Tobias Kratzer for his new production of Henze's *The Raft of the Medusa* at the Komische Oper Berlin, taking place in Hangar 1 of Flughafen Tempelhof, before returning to Basel for a revival of Weber's *Freischütz* (Christoph Marthaler) followed by the premiere of Hèctor Parra's new opera *Justice* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève and in St. Pölten, Austria. He can be heard in concerts with the WDR Symphony Orchestra in their series "Musik der Zeit", with the Dresdner Philharmonie as well as in Innsbruck performing Mingus' *Epitaph*.

The previous season ended with a monumental production: he successfully lead Messiaen's *Saint François d'Assise* in a production throughout the city. He also returned to the Bavarian State Opera with Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* and Lehar's *Giuditta* as well as to Lyon with Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*.

Guest conducting engagements so far have included the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Philharmonia Orchestra, Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, SWR and WDR Sinfonieorchester, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Staatsorchester Hannover, Deutsche Radiophilharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern, Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the chamber orchestras in Zurich and Munich, as well as Ensemble Modern and Klangforum Wien. He worked with the Camerata Salzburg at the Salzburg Festival and at the Tiroler Festspiele Erl, where he conducted all of Brahms' symphonies.

In opera he has conducted Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* (Theater an der Wien); *The Flying Dutchman*, *Wozzeck*, and *Blue Beard's Castle* (Stuttgart Opera), Mozart's *Betulia Liberata*, Strauss' *Salome*, and Nielsen's *Maskerade* (Frankfurt Opera); Haas' *Bluthaus* (Bayerische Staatsoper), Nunez's *La Douce* (Staatsoper Berlin); Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* (Opéra de Lyon); Glass' *Einstein on the Beach* (Grand Théâtre de Genève) and Verdi's *La Traviata* (Theater Basel). Titus Engel's debut at the Teatro Real Madrid conducting the world premiere of Pilar Jurado's *La página en blanco* in 2011 was widely praised by the press and audiences alike. He followed this with triumphant world premieres of Charles Wuorinen's *Brokeback Mountain* (2014) and Elena Mendoza's *La ciudad de las mentiras* (2017). In 2016 together with Lydia Steier he brought the Swiss premiere of Stockhausen's *Donnerstag* to the stage at Theater Basel - Opernwelt magazine named the production "Performance of the Year". The premiere of Chaya Czernowin's opera *Infinite Now* took place in 2017, which he conducted at the Opera Vlaanderen, the Nationaltheater Mannheim, and the Philharmonie de Paris. He has also led numerous world premieres at the Salzburg Festival, Berliner Festspiele, Lucerne Festival, the Ruhrtriennale, and the Wiener Konzerthaus.

After studying musicology and philosophy in Zurich and Berlin he studied conducting in Dresden with Christian Kluttig. This training was supplemented by support from the Conductors Forum of the German Music Council and David Zinman's American Academy of Conducting at Aspen, as well as assistantships with Sylvain Cambreling, Marc Albrecht, and Peter Rundel. Titus Engel has recorded numerous works for radio and CD and is the founder of the Akademie Musiktheater Heute, in addition to having edited several books on contemporary opera.

Season 2023/24

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