Christian Schumann

Conductor

A truly creative conductor, programmer and composer, Christian Schumann has rapidly established a reputation as both an opera and symphonic conductor, developing concepts that cross genres and disciplines, challenging both the orchestra, as well as the audience.

The 2023/24 season will see Christian Schumann perform with orchestras such as Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (his debut in Spain), Philharmonie Zuidnederland, Phion Orkest, Polska Filharmonia Bałtycka and a much-anticipated return to Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra.

He recently also made highly successful debuts with Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, Bamberger Symphoniker, Stuttgart Philharmonic (Strauss’ *Alpine Symphony* with alpinist Reinhold Messner), Dresdner Philharmonie, Orchestre Symphonique de Mulhouse, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Brussels Philharmonic, Warsaw Philharmonic and a debut with Royal Swedish Opera, with legendary video games company, Dice. Other recent successes include regular returns to Oslo Philharmonic, NDR Radiophilharmonie and Danish National Symphony Orchestra.

Christian Schumann has appeared in a number of important opera productions across Europe. He has conducted Peter Eötvös’ operas *Die Tragödie des Teufels* and *Lady Sarashina* at Bayerische Staatsoper and Teatr Wielki in Warsaw respectively, Mozart’s *Magic Flute* at Opera Würzburg and the Berlin premieres of Peter Eötvös​’s opera *Angels in America*, excelling also in a critically-acclaimed new production of Peter Eötvös’ *Three Sisters* at Teatro Colón. At Grand Theatre Avignon, he conducted a double-bill featuring Bartók’s *Bluebeard´s Castle* and Eötvös’ *Senza Sangue*, previously enjoying a long-term relationship with the Theater St. Gallen, where he held the Kapellmeister position between 2006-2009.

Schumann’s special affinity for film music has led him to conduct major projects often to arena audiences, such as at the Krakow Film Music Festival (*Kon Tiki* / *Neverending Story*) as well as four open concerts with Het Gelders Orkest in the Netherlands, and four major recent major tours across Germany, Austria and Switzerland featuring such classics as *Star Wars, The Dark Knight, Harry Potter, James Bond, The Jungle Book* and *Ratatouille*. In 2022, Schumann returned to Aarhus Symphony Orchestra performing the paradigmatic *Star Wars VI*.

Schumann first came to international attention when he won First Prize at the International Conducting Competition in Budapest. He then went on to secure the International Allianz Academy for Conductors Scholarship, which led to several important debuts including appearances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall. Since then, he has worked with a number of important orchestras including Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra (where he appeared with Steven Isserlis), MDR Sinfonieorchester, Staatskapelle Weimar, Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice and Turku Philharmonic. New music groups included Ensemble Intercontemporain, Remix Ensemble Porto and Österreichisches Ensemble für Neue Musik.

Schumann has conducted many recordings for film and video games including the original scores by Philippe Schoeller (*J’accuse* with SWR Sinfonieorchester), Pascal Schumacher (*L’enigme* with WDR Funkhausorchester Köln) and Johan Söderqvist (*Battlefield 1 & Battlefield Expansion* with Philharmonia Orchestra and the LSO respectively).

Schumann received a Master of Arts Degree at the Franz Liszt University Weimar majoring conducting and composition (2007). His professors were Nicolás Pasquet and Michael Obst.

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