

Karsten Januschke Conductor

“Leading the MDR Symphony Orchestra is Karsten Januschke, an already well-respected name. The ,Reiheins‘ concert clearly affirms this respect. Januschke thoroughly revitalizes Dvorák’s symphony ,From the New World‘ [...] There was no attempt to promote a new, chic, choreographic star from the top rosters. Instead there stood an excellent talent that provided an exemplary synthesis of the composition and the musicians. The conductor and orchestra received ecstatic applause in the end.”

Leipziger Volkszeitung, 2/5/2017 on the concert at Gewandhaus Leipzig

Within the space of a few years Karsten Januschke has made a name for himself in the field of concerts and opera as a great talent of the younger generation of conductors. Characterised by a natural, friendly authority and an expressive conducting technique his communication with orchestras, soloists and singers is commanding and collegial. The prerequisite for his rehearsals is an in-depth study of the work in hand, and he takes an approach that combines a clear sound concept with great efficiency producing concerts and performances of extraordinary emotion and artistic flexibility.

2017/18 season kicks off with Barrie Kosky’s staged production of ,Dido and Aeneas/Bluebeard’s Castle‘ in Oper Frankfurt. Following this production, Januschke will lead new productions of ,Der Diktator/ Der zerbrochene Krug‘ debuting at the Bayerische Staatsoper and ,Don Pasquale‘ with the Symphonieorchester Vorarlberg. Januschke’s season sees many debuts including, but not limited to, performances with the DSO Berlin, Norddeutsche Philharmonie Rostock and the Münchner Kammerorchester. He has also been invited to return to the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz, the Symphonieorchester des Slowakischen Rundfunks and again to Oper Frankfurt for the world premiere of Arnulf Herrmann’s ,Der Mieter‘.

A defining period in Karsten Januschke’s career was spent at the Frankfurt Opera where he was kapellmeister. Having had the opportunity to acquire an extensive and broad-ranging repertoire in Frankfurt, he is now concentrating on his guest engagements; he recently made his debuts with the MDR Sinfonie Orchester, Beethoven Orchester Bonn, Radio-Symphonie Orchester Wien, Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Bremer Philharmoniker and Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern.

Opera continues to play a central role in his musical activities and he still enjoys a close connection with the Frankfurt Opera where he is regularly invited to guest conduct. Since 2010 he has conducted works from every era here, from Don Carlos and La Traviata, to La Bohème, Die Fledermaus and Hansel and Gretel, contemporary compositions such as Reimann’s Die Gespenstersonate and Sallinen’s Kullervo. Mozart’s works soon emerged as a particular focus and Januschke’s spirited and energetic renditions of Don Giovanni, Così fan tutte, Idomeneo and The Magic Flute have confirmed his position as an expert. He conducted the revival of Le nozze di Figaro at the Frankfurt Opera and a new production of Valentino Fioravanti’s Le Cantatrici villane in the 2015/16 season. In addition he provided the musical direction for a new production of Carmen (director: Christof Nel) at the Bayerische Theaterakademie August Everding and for L’elisir d’amore (director: Philipp Himmelmann) at the Opernfestspiele St. Margarethen among others.

Originally from Schleswig-Holstein, Januschke studied piano and musicology and completed his conducting studies with Prof. Georg Mark at the Vienna Conservatoire with honours. During this time he worked at the Vienna State Opera as a solo répétiteur and conductor of children’s operas, as well as at the Theater an der Wien and later at the Bayreuth Festival, assisting conductors such as Christian Thielemann and Kirill Petrenko.

2017-2018 season (November 2017) – please do not use older versions of biography.

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