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Koen Schoots

CONDUCTOR – ARRANGER – ORCHESTRATOR

Born and educated in the Netherlands, his work spans the worlds of classical and popular music.

After finishing his studies in conducting, piano and voice at the Conservatory of Maastricht in 1984, he worked as a conductor and coach for the theatres in Linz, Klagenfurt and Gelsenkirchen. From 1992 he broadened his repertoire and field of work, becoming musical director for various commercial musical theatres, such as CATS and THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY (both in Hamburg) and JEKYLL & HYDE (European premiere) in Bremen and Cologne, while continuing to conduct classical repertoire.

From 2003 to 2005 he worked as a conductor for the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf and Duisburg, and from 2004 to 2010 he served as chief conductor of the Opernfestspiele St. Margarethen (Austria).
He established close relationships with the Komische Oper Berlin and Barrie Kosky (2004) and with Konzert und Theater St. Gallen (2005) — relationships that continue to this day.

For the Komische Oper he served as musical director for SWEENEY TODD (2004-05, returning in 2027), KISS ME, KATE (2008-2015), IM WEISSEN RÖSSL (2010-11), WEST SIDE STORY (2013-), FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (2017-), LA CAGE AUX FOLLES (2023-), the children's opera DIE ZAUBERMELODIKA (2021-22) and the operettas DIE BLUME VON HAWAII (2021) and MARINKA (2016), as well as the highly acclaimed production of JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (2025) in the hangar of the former Tempelhof Airport.

In St. Gallen he conducted and supervised numerous productions, starting with LES MISÉRABLES (2007-08 and 2023-2024), HELLO DOLLY (2019), REBECCA (2012) and the world premiere productions of DRACULA (2005), THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (2009), XCALIBUR (2014), DON CAMILLO AND PEPPONE (2016), MATTERHORN (2018), DESERT FLOWER (2020), LADY BESS (2022) and EINSTEIN — A MATTER OF TIME (2025).

From 2010 to 2018 he was music director for musical theater at the Vereinigte Bühnen in Vienna, the most prestigious musical theater company in the German-speaking world, with two theaters and an orchestra of 84. He conducted all musical premieres, such as TANZ DER VAMPIRE, SISTER ACT, ELISABETH, MOZART!, LEGALLY BLONDE, MARY POPPINS, MAMMA MIA!, EVITA and SCHIKANEDER (world premiere), as well as concert productions of JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, LOVE NEVER DIES, MESSIAH ROCKS and numerous galas and other events. He also conducted the Japanese tour of ELISABETH in Osaka and Tokyo.

For Broadway composer FRANK WILDHORN he serves as arranger, orchestrator, musical supervisor and conductor in Europe and Asia. In this capacity he conducted the world premieres of DRACULA (St. Gallen), RUDOLF (Budapest, Vienna, Tokyo, Seoul), THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (St. Gallen, Seoul), XCALIBUR (St. Gallen, revised in Seoul), CARMEN (Prague) and EINSTEIN — A MATTER OF TIME (St. Gallen), as well as the world premieres of the Donau Symphony at the Musikverein in Vienna and the Odessa Symphony, performed open air in Ulm with the Wiener Symphoniker. He also wrote, performed and recorded three symphonic suites from Wildhorn's musicals DRACULA, XCALIBUR and EINSTEIN — all three recorded with the Vienna Independent Orchestra, an ensemble of the finest musicians of the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna Symphony. The next project will be the world premiere of ORLANDO, after Virginia Woolf's novel, opening on December 17th, 2027 at the Bühne Baden in Austria.
Since 2024 he has been the conductor of the Greek death metal band Septicflesh for their full symphonic live shows — from the Odeon of Herodes Atticus under the Acropolis in Athens to the Plovdiv State Opera in Bulgaria, with more concerts and projects planned.

TIMELINE

1984-1989 Stadttheater Klagenfurt: Répétiteur and conductor
1989-2001 Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen: conductor / guest conductor
1992-1994 Operettenhaus Hamburg: musical director for Cats
1994-2001 Neue Metropol Hamburg: artistic director for Buddy Holly Story
1991-2001 Neue Metropol Bremen: artistic director and md for Jekyll & Hyde
2001-2003 Friedrichstadtpalast Berlin: conductor
2003-2005 Deutsche Oper am Rhein: conductor
2004- Guest conductor Komische Oper Berlin
2005- Guest conductor Konzert und Theater St. Gallen
2005-2010 Freelance conductor and arranger
2010-2018 Vereinigte Bühnen Wien: music director
2018- Freelance conductor and arranger

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PRODUCTIONS AND CONCERTS (EXCERPT)

Klagenfurt 1984-1989

- Don Quichoke (Massenet)
- La Bohème (Puccini)
- Madama Bukerfly (Puccini)
- Simon Boccanegra (Verdi)
- Nabucco (Verdi)
- Les pêcheurs de perles (Bizet)
- Les Contes d'Hofmann (Offenbach)
- La Sonnambula (Bellini)
- I Capuleq ed i Montecchi (Bellini)
- Die Csárdásfürstn (Kálmán)
- Die lustge Witwe (Lehár)
- Die tote Stadt (Korngold)
- Elektra (Strauss)
- Tannhäuser (Wagner)
- Das Land des Lächelns (Lehár)
- My Fair Lady (Loewe & Lerner)

Gelsenkirchen 1989-2001

- Cabaret (Kander & Ebb)
- Rigoletto (Verdi)
- Tosca (Puccini)
- Le Nozze di Figaro (Mozart)
- Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny (Weill)
- Jesus Christ Superstar (Lloyd Webber)
- Evita (Lloyd Webber)
- West Side Story (Bernstein)
- La Cenerentola (Rossini)
- Barbe-Bleu (Offenbach)
- The Black Rider (Waits)
- The Rocky Horror Show (O'Brien)
- Fellini, Fellini (Seidler)

Deutsche Oper am Rhein 2003-2005

- West Side Story (Bernstein)
- Hänsel und Gretel (Humperdinck)
- Carmen (Bizet)
- Die Fledermaus (Strauß)
- The Wooden Prince (Bártok)
- Coppélia (Delibes)
- Macbeth (Verdi)
- Carmina Burana (Orff)
- La Fermosa - Die Jüdin von Toledo (World Premiere – I. Schmidt)
- Erda (World Premiere – P. Vasks)

Komische Oper Berlin 2004-

- Sweeney Todd (Sondheim)
- Kiss Me, Kate (Porter)
- Im Weißen Rössl (Benatzky)
- West Side Story (Bernstein)
- Marinka (Kálmán)
- Fiddler on the Roof (Bock)
- Die Zaubermelodika (World Premiere - Rantala)
- Die Blume von Hawaii (Abraham)
- La Cage aux Folles (Herman)
- Jesus Christ Superstar (Lloyd Webber)

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Opernfestpiele St. Margarethen 2004-2010

- Aida (Verdi)
- Carmen (Bizet)
- Nabucco (Verdi)
- La Traviata (Verdi)
- Rigoleko (Verdi)
- Die Zauberflöte (Mozart)

Konzert & Theater St. Gallen 2005-

- Dracula (Swiss Premiere - Wildhorn)
- Les Misérables (2007 Swiss Premiere, Returning 2023 - Schönberg)
- The Count of Monte Cristo (World Premiere – Wildhorn
- Rebecca (Swiss Premiere – Levay)
- Xcalibur (World Premiere – Wildhorn)
- Don Camillo & Peppone (World Premiere – Farina)
- Makerhorn (World Premiere – Hammond)
- Hello Dolly (Herman)
- Wüstenblume (World Premiere – Fahrenkrog)
- Lady Bess (Europe Premiere – Levay)
- Einstein – A Matter of Time (World Premiere – Wildhorn)

Vereinigte Bühnen Wien 2010-2018

- Rudolf (World Premiere – Wildhorn)
- Ich war noch niemals in New York (Austrian Premiere - Jürgens)
- Tanz der Vampire (Steinman)
- Jesus Christ Superstar (Lloyd Webber)
- Elisabeth (Levay)
- The Phantom of the Opera (Lloyd Webber)
- Sister Act (Austrian Premiere - Menken)
- Love Never Dies (European Premiere - Lloyd Webber)
- Legally Blonde (Austrian Premiere – O'Keefe)
- Der Besuch der alten Dame (Austrian Premiere – Schneider & Reed)
- Mamma Mia! (Austrian Premiere – Andersson & Ulvaeus)
- Mary Poppins (European Premiere – Stles)
- Messiah Rocks (European Premiere – Howland)
- Mozart! (Levay)
- Don Camillo & Peppone (Austrian Premiere – Farina)
- Evita (Lloyd Webber)
- Schikaneder (World Premiere – Schwartz)

Various Venues

- Staatstheater Darmstadt: Aida (Verdi)
- Staatstheater Wiesbaden: Hänsel und Gretel (Humperdinck)
- Städtische Bühnen Münster: The Rocky Horror Show (O'Brien)
- Operett Színház Budapest: Rudolf (World Premiere – Wildhorn)
- Opernhaus Graz: Silk Stockings (Porter)
- Opernhaus Graz: Marinka (Kálmán)
- Oper Köln: Kiss Me, Kate (Porter)
- Schloßbergbühne Kasematten Graz: Dracula (Wildhorn)
- Gebläsehalle Völklingen: Gormenghast (I. Schmidt)
- Musik und Theater Saar: Der Freischütz (Weber)
- Opernhaus Halle: The Scarlet Pimpernel (Wildhorn)
- Festspielhaus Neuschwanstein: Rudolf (Wildhorn)

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OTHER NOTEWORTHY EVENTS (SELECTION)

• 2006 Operett Szinház Budapest – Rudolf (World Premiere – Wildhorn)
• 2010 Raimund Theater Vienna – Frank Wildhorn and Friends with the Vereinigte Bühnen Wien orchestra and guest stars Linda Eder, Pia Douwes and Thomas Borchert
• 2012 Umeda Arts Center, Osaka and Theater Orb, Tokyo – Elisabeth in Concert (Levay)
• 2012–2021 EMK Productions Seoul – Rudolf, The Count of Monte Cristo, Xcalibur (Wildhorn), Elisabeth, Mozart! (Levay)
• 2017 Musical Comedy St. Petersburg – Wildhorn & Friends in Concert
• 2017 De Doelen Rotterdam – Musical Meets Opera – Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra
• 2019–2020 Opéra National du Rhin Strasbourg – Fiddler on the Roof (Bock)
• 2022 Musikverein Vienna – Wiener Symphoniker – Donau Symphonie (World Premiere – Wildhorn)
• 2024 Münsterplatz Ulm – Wiener Symphoniker Open Air concert – Donau Symphonie (Wildhorn)
• 2024 and 2025 Odeon of Herodes Atticus Athens – Septicflesh live in Concert with the Athens State Orchestra
• 2025 Münsterplatz Ulm – Wiener Symphoniker – Odessa Symphonie (World Premiere – Wildhorn)
• 2026 Festspielhaus Neuschwanstein – Rudolf (German Premiere – Wildhorn)
• 2026 Ancient Theatre Plovdiv – Septicflesh live in Concert with the Orchestra and Choir of the State Opera Plovdiv

CD & DVD (SELECTION)

CD
• Vienna Symphony (Wildhorn) – Wiener Symphoniker (CD)
• Rudolf Füssen Cast CD
• Dracula - 10th Anniversary Korean Cast CD
• Frank Wildhorn: The Symphonic Suites - Vienna Independent Orchestra (CD)
• Einstein - A Matter of Time - Original St. Gallen Cast CD
•Odessa Symphony - Wiener Symphoniker (CD)
•Lady Bess - Original St. Gallen Cast CD
• Donau Symphonie (Wildhorn) – Wiener Symphoniker (CD)
• Rigoletto – Opernfestspiele St. Margarethen (CD & DVD)
• Die Zauberflöte – Opernfestspiele St. Margarethen (CD & DVD, awarded platinum DVD for best selling classical DVD in Austria)
• Elisabeth 2012 Anniversary Producton (CD, awarded gold)
• Mozart! (CD & DVD)
• Jesus Christ Superstar (CD)
• Lady Bess (CD)
• Sister Act (CD)
• Mary Poppins (CD)
• Der Besuch der alten Dame (CD)
• Schikaneder (CD)
• Rudolf (CD & DVD)
• Wildhorn & Friends, live from Vienna (CD & DVD)
• Xcalibur (Korean Cast CD – live stream Broadway On Demand)
Etc. (full list available on demand)

ARRANGING AND ORCHESTRATING (EXCERPT)

•Rudolf (Wildhorn)arrangements, vocal arrangements, incidental music (Budapest, Vienna, Tokyo), orchestrations (Seoul), completely revised arrangements and orchestrations for Füssen (2026)
•The Count of Monte Cristo (Wildhorn)arrangements, vocal arrangements, incidental music (St. Gallen), orchestrations (Seoul)
•Xcalibur (Wildhorn)arrangements and orchestrations (St. Gallen, Seoul, Tokyo – numerous German territory productions)
•Carmen (Wildhorn)arrangements, vocal arrangements, incidental music (Prague)
•Dracula (Wildhorn)arrangements, vocal arrangements and orchestrations (worldwide)
•Matterhorn (Hammond)arrangements and orchestrations (St. Gallen)
•Don Camillo & Peppone (Farina)orchestrations (St. Gallen, Vienna)
•Wüstenblume (Fahrenkrog)additional arrangements (St. Gallen, Munich)
•Pippin (Schwartz)new extended orchestrations (Dresden)
•Schikaneder (Schwartz)vocal arrangements (Vienna)
•Dracula Suite (Wildhorn)arrangement and orchestration
•Einstein – A Matter of Time (Wildhorn)arrangements, vocal arrangements and orchestrations (St. Gallen)
•Xcalibur Suite (Wildhorn)arrangement and orchestration
•Einstein, A Matter of Time Suite (Wildhorn)arrangement and orchestration

•Jekyll & Hyde (Wildhorn)new arrangements and orchestrations for the Swiss premiere (St. Gallen)
•Upcoming: Orlando (Wildhorn)arrangements, vocal arrangements and orchestrations (Baden)

PRIZES AND AWARDS

• 2009 Berlin Audience Award – Best Musical Theater Production of the Season: Kiss Me, Kate
• 2011 Gold and Platinum DVD – Die Zauberflöte Opernfestpiele St. Margarethen
• 2012 Golden CD – Elisabeth – 20-year Anniversary Production Vienna
• 2018 Berlin Audience Award – Best Musical Theater Production of the Season: Fiddler on the Roof
• 2021 German Musical Academy – Best Arrangements for a new Show: Wüstenblume (Desert Flower)
• 2025 German Musical Academy – Nomination – Best Arrangements and Orchestrations: Einstein, A Matter of Time

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