

**GERNOT SCHULZ**

CONDUCTOR

"A first-class musician and conductor, whose work deserves every encouragement", wrote Sir Georg Solti in 1993 to describe Gernot Schulz; whose career, at that point, had already achieved international acclaim.

Schulz has worked with such esteemed orchestras as the *Kammerorchester of the Berliner Philharmoniker*, the *Münchener Rundfunkorchester*, the *Orchester der Komischen Oper Berlin*, the *Staatskapelle Weimar*, the *Staatsorchester Frankfurt/Oder*, the *Hamburger Symphoniker*, the *Brandenburger Symphoniker*, the *Eugene Symphony Orchestra (USA)*, the *Budapest Philharmonics*, the *Czech National Orchestra*, the *National Orchestra of Taiwan*, the *Radio Orchestra of Ljubljana*, the *Latvian National Orchestra Riga*, the *Orquestra Simfónica de Baleares* and the *Noord Nederlands Orkest*.

In concert performance, Gernot Schulz has appeared at the *Frankfurter Feste*, the *Berliner Festwochen* (premiering works by Hans Werner Henze, Günter Bialas, Wilhelm Killmayer and Michael Hamel), the *Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern* and the *Schleswig-Holstein-Musik-Festival*. At the *Kontrapunkte-Festival* of the *Osterfestspiele Salzburg*, founded by Claudio Abbado, Gernot Schulz conducted several ensembles of the *Berliner Philharmoniker*, with whom he has enjoyed an ongoing artistic collaboration.

Schulz began his musical career as a percussionist with the *Berliner Philharmoniker*. Having been a member for nearly thirty years, he left his position in 2004 in order to accommodate a growing schedule of appearances as a conductor. However, these formative years in Berlin, and an exposure to the intensity and challenges of making music at this high niveau (including the influence of Herbert von Karajan), would inform and define the standards for his continued career in music.

He began conducting in the 1980's and studied with Prof. Volker Rohde at the *Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig*. Accolades from this period include a prize from the *Conducting Competition of the German Conservatories*. Masterclasses in Vienna, Salzburg and, at the invitation of Leonard Bernstein, Tanglewood, followed. Bernstein and Sir Georg Solti were his patrons, for whom he led rehearsals with the Orchestra of the *Teatro à la Scala di Milano*, the *Orchestra of the Schleswig-Holstein-Musik-Festival* and the *Orchestra di Santa Cecilia di Roma*. In addition, Schulz served as director of the *Internationale Sommerakademie* at Kloster Michaelstein (Germany).

Along with Sir Simon Rattle, Gernot Schulz was the conductor for the soundtrack of the film "*Rhythm is it*", the first release on the newly founded music label of the *Berliner Philharmoniker*. Further work as a conductor of film music includes the 2004 *Sony Classical* release "*Die Rosenzüchterin*". This project, recorded with the *Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester Frankfurt/Oder*, was awarded the prize for Best German Soundtrack in 2003 and 2004. More recordings, including a fragment of the Schubert opera "*Adrast*", were released by *Ars Produktion* and *Wergo*.

The range of Gernot Schulz' musical interests and activities is diverse and expansive. In addition to his conducting duties and his tenure as Professor of Music at the *Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg*, he was engaged in the *Education Program* of the *Berliner Philharmoniker* and lecturer at the *Herbert-von-Karajan-Akademie Berlin*. He is committed not only to high-level music performance and experimentation with new concert forms, but more importantly to educating audiences in the social relevance of music in our society.