François Leleux

Oboe/Conductor

*“As an oboist, Leleux is a remarkably charismatic, flamboyant performer, matching immaculate technique with a dazzlingly vivid identification with his music. Those qualities continue in his conducting – detailed, demanding, but full of such abundant enthusiasm that you’re swept up in it from the first moment”* (The Scotsman).

François Leleux regularly appears as conductor, player/director and soloist with the world’s leading orchestras, festivals and concert series. He has been Artist-in-Residence with orchestras such as Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg and hr-Sinfonieorchester; Guest Artistic Leader of the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra; and Artist in Association with the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris.

Leleux opens his 2018/19 season with a curated chamber programme at the Pierre Boulez Saal. From there, he appears as conductor-and-soloist with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic and hr-Sinfonieorchester, and embarks on a European tour with Camerata Salzburg and Lisa Batiashvili.  Expanding his successful collaboration with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, he returns to the ensemble for conducting, play-direct performances and chamber music throughout the season. Elsewhere, he conducts Tonkünstler Orchestra, Berner Symphonie-Orchester, Aalborg Symphony Orchestra and Symphonieorchester Vorarlberg. Solo performances include Munich Chamber Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Paris and Orquesta Sinfonica de Ternerife.

Last season Leleux appeared as conductor-and-soloist with Gulbenkian Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestras, and on tour with Hungarian National Philharmonic. Concerto highlights included a debut with Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and a return to Hong Kong Philharmonic.

Leleux’s pre-eminence as an oboist is internationally recognised having performed with orchestras such as New York Philharmonic, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchestre Berlin, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, BBC Scottish and NHK symphony orchestras, and with distinguished conductors such as Lionel Bringuier, Myung-Whun Chung, Thomas Dausgaard, Ivan Fischer, Alan Gilbert, Thomas Hengelbrock, Mariss Jansons and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Leleux has in parallel established a successful conducting career, working with orchestras such as Sydney Symphony, hr-Sinfonieorchester, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, and WDR Symphony Orchestra; in 2016 he made his conducting debut at Vienna’s Musikverein. A dedicated chamber musician, he regularly performs world-wide with sextet Les Vents Français and with recital partners Lisa Batiashvili, Isabelle Moretti, Eric Le Sage, and Emmanuel Strosser. Festival highlights include BBC Proms, Mozartwoche, Beethovenfest Bonn, Grant Park Music Festival, and Edinburgh International Festival as part of the Festival’s 70th anniversary.

Committed to expanding the oboe’s repertoire, Leleux has had many new works commissioned for him by composers such as Nicolas Bacri, Michael Jarrell, Giya Kancheli, Thierry Pécou, Gilles Silvestrini, and Éric Tanguy. This season he will premier Silvestrini’s arrangement of Debussy’s *Rhapsodie for saxophone* (arranged for cor anglais) which was arranged for Leleux.In 2016/17 he premiered Jarrell’s oboe concerto *Aquateinte* which was co-commissioned by the Hessischer Rundfunk, Printemps des Arts de Monte-Carlo, Utah Symphony and Berner Symphonieorchester. During 2014/15 he – together with his wife Lisa Batiashvili - gave world premiere performances with NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester and the New York Philharmonic, of Thierry Escaich’s *Double Concerto for Violin and Oboe*.

Leleux has released several CDs on Sony Classical, the latest of which - a disc of works by Hummel and Haydn recorded with Münchener Kammerorchester – received award recognition in 2016. Other recordings include works by J.S. Bach with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Mozart with Camerata Salzburg, and Strauss’s Oboe Concerto with Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Daniel Harding.

François Leleux is a Professor at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München.



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