



PRESS RELEASE

15 Years Old and Not a Bit Quieter

Halle (Saale), 7th August 2015

When, in 2000, Arthaus Musik was launched in Munich as a subsidiary of Kinowelt AG, with just ten DVD releases that year, even the most well-disposed critics could not possibly have foreseen that, within a very short time, the label would grow into one of the pacesetting enterprises in the field of the audio-visual presentation of classical music. However today, after 15 years, this pioneering label for classical music on DVD can look back on more than 1000 different releases. These figures mean that Arthaus Musik enjoys a clear lead, internationally, over all competitors in this sector of the home entertainment market. And every year, the company goes on releasing new high-quality productions in the fields of opera, ballet, concerts, art, and documentary film.

Torsten Bönnhoff, CEO of Arthaus Musik: "The last 15 years have proven that, despite all the prophecies of doom, audio-visual classical music productions were no flash in the pan. One of the reasons why Arthaus Musik is market leader in the field today is that we recognized very early on the international potential of classical-music DVDs. Many of our productions have been recordings of performances which are generally acknowledged to be models to which the whole profession looks, such as the Zurich *Così fan tutte* conducted by Nikolaus Harnoncourt, or the San Francisco Opera's 1988 *La Bohème*, with Mirella Freni and Luciano Pavarotti in the main roles. Not least among the proofs of this are our consistently high sales figures."

Thanks to state-of-the-art digital technology, the DVD offers, like no other medium, the possibility of turning your living room into an opera house or concert hall. The selection of subtitles in several languages; multi-channel audio; extensive bonus material such as interviews, making-ofs, or even the simultaneous on-screen display of the work's score – all these have been standard on Arthaus Musik DVDs from the very start. Since 2008, almost all of our titles have also been released on Blu-Ray disc. This high-definition successor to the DVD offers, compared to the earlier technology, a significantly improved data transfer rate and storage capacity, resulting in picture and sound quality that make each production a breathtakingly unique experience.

With Kinowelt's move to Leipzig in 2003 this label, which remains a favourite among the press, the trade and the buying public, underwent a major restructuring. Since 2007, Arthaus Musik has formed part of the Studio Halle group, with its registered head office in Halle (Saale). Through the production firm Monarda Arts, its wholly-owned subsidiary, it owns the rights to the commercial utilization, in DVD, TV and online forms of some 900 different productions. In addition, the company is continuously developing that branch of its activity that consists in initiating productions of its own, with the recording of operas, concerts, ballets and the production of documentary films on music and the other arts.

The highlights of these last few years include, in 2008, the attentive restoration in both sound and image of the WALTER FELSENSTEIN EDITION of the Oscar[®]-winning animation film PETER & THE

WOLF, such prize-winning documentaries as KLASSIK UND KALTER KRIEG and RICHARD STRAUSS AND HIS HEROINES, and, in 2015, with SHOSTAKOVICH – COMPLETE SYMPHONIES & CONCERTOS, the very first complete recording of all the works in these musical forms by the great composer Dmitri Shostakovich.

For its 15th birthday, Arthaus Musik is giving itself a number of birthday presents: legendary operas, exciting documentary films, a few historical jewels, and the first genuine Finnish Sibelius cycle.

Happy Birthday, Arthaus Musik!

Contact.

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