

Wilfried Kaets

Composer, Conductor, Performer,

Wilfried Kaets – Composer, Conductor, Performer, Received degrees in Arts, Sciences and Education from The Robert-Schumann-Academy of Music, Düsseldorf and the Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf.

After completing his concert examination for organ, Kaets took part in a number of courses and master courses with special emphasis on improvisation for piano and organ (e.g., O. Latry, Paris; P. Eben, Prague) and studied silent film accompaniment with, among others, H. Riethmüller (Berlin, theater organ), Richard McLaughlin (Frankfurt, silent film piano), Paul Haletzki (Bergisch-Glabach, theater organ).



- awarded the Gottfried Schreuer Prize, Düsseldorf, for organ literature and improvisation;
- served as Professor of Film Music for the Department of Media Science, Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf from 1992-2002;
- organized and presented seminars and master courses for silent film music (e.g., Silent Film Music Workshop for Organists and Pianists, Music Conservatory, Cologne);
- artistic supervisor for the historic Welte theater organ at the Film Museum, Düsseldorf; has performed in many venues in Germany and abroad including diverse CD, DVD, television and radio productions.

The artist has been intensively involved in researching the medium of silent film and its theory and practice since 1986. To date he has composed approximately 160 silent film scores, has performed in more than 450 live concerts and has been involved in silent film festivals in Leipzig, Hagen, Düsseldorf, Essen, Frankfurt a. M., Dresden ...

Kaets has served as Musical Director for comprehensive retrospectives: F. W. Murnau, E. von Stroheim, F. Lang, S. Eisenstein, W. Pudowkin, C. Th. Dreyer, L. Kuleschow, Ch. Chaplin, B. Keaton, Man Ray, G. W. Pabst, L. Feuillade, G. Méliés, L. und A. Lumière, D. W. Griffith, A. Gance, and others.

His film music and other compositions have been performed in:

- concert halls (Cologne Philharmonic, Oetkerhalle Bielefeld, Konzerthaus Wien, Théâtre des Capucines Luxemburg);
- film theaters (German Film Museum Frankfurt, Film Institute Dresden, State Institute of Film Düsseldorf ...);
- churches (Hallgrímskirkja Reykjavík; St. Martin Luxemburg; St. Magdalena Linz, Austria; Stadtkirche Bayreuth, Cathedral St. Eberhard Stuttgart; Münsterkirche Villingen; Marienkirche Leipzig; Rochuskirche Köln; Münsterkirche Konstanz ...);
- as well as official cultural programs during EXPO 2000 in Hannover, Germany.

In tandem with his work as a musician and composer, Mr. Kaets serves as Regional Cantor for the deanery of Cologne.