

## Wilfried Kaets

### I. Contact Information

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### II. Education

Degrees in Arts, Sciences and Education from the:  
Robert-Schumann-Academy of Music, Düsseldorf  
Heinrich-Heine-University, Düsseldorf.

Concert Examination for Organ

Master Courses, with special emphasis on improvisation for piano and organ, with  
O. Latry, Paris; P. Eben, Prague  
Courses specialised in silent movie accompaniment with Paul Haletzki, Bergisch -  
Gladbach; H. Riethmüller, Berlin and Richard Mc Laughlin, London/Frankfurt

### III. Awards

Acadamey of Music Award (Gottfried Schreuer Prize), Düsseldorf (organ literature  
and improvisation)

### IV. Performance and Composition

Concerts and CD recordings and  
Television and Radio appearances in Germany and abroad

**1986-present:** increasing involvement accompanying, composing and scoring  
original music for silent films (approximately 450 performances to date)

### V. Other Activities

Artistic supervisor for the historic Welte cinema-organ at the Film Museum,  
Düsseldorf.

His silent film music has been performed in many venues, such as:

**Concert Halls:** Cologne Philharmonic Hall; Oetker Hall, Bielefeld; Concert  
House Vienna; Capuccines Theatre, Luxemburg; Royal Opera House  
Muscat (Oman); Concert Hall Perm (Russia), Concert Hall Bratislava...

**Film theatres:** German Film Museum, Frankfurt; Institute of Film, Dresden;  
Institute of Film (State), Düsseldorf...

**Churches:** Hallgrimskirkjy Reijkjavik (Iceland); Bayreuth; Marienkirche Linz  
(Austria); St. Eberhard Cathedral Stuttgart; Münsterkirche (Minister Church)

Villingen St. Marien Leipzig; St. Rochus Cologne; Münsterkirche  
Konstanz...

Mr. Kaets is involved in silent film festivals and seminars: Dresden, Essen,  
Hagen, Leipzig, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt...

**1992-2001:** Professor/Lecturer for Film Music for the Department of Media Science  
at the Heinrich-Heine-University in Düsseldorf

**1990 – 2022** In tandem with his work as a musician and composer, Mr. Kaets  
serves as the Regional Cantor for the district (deanery) of Cologne

### **Short Vita:**

Mr. Kaets has had more than 30 years experience composing for and accompanying  
silent films throughout Europe, Asia and Russia and was professor for film music at the  
Heinrich-Heine-University in Düsseldorf for 10 years.

He has worked intensively with many of the German and English film pianists and  
organists remaining from the times of silent films so that his screenings are distinguished  
by historically accurate performance practice.

He is one of the most experienced musicians in Germany and the first one starting here  
regularly silent-movie-concerts in churches after the end of the silent movie Era.

### **Long Vita:**

**Curriculum vitae    Wilfried Kaets**  
Composer, Musician, Conductor

### Résumé

Studies: Music Arts and Sciences at the Robert-Schumann University of Music and the  
Heinrich-Heine University, Düsseldorf (Germany). Concert exam organ at Prof. Herbert  
Callhoff (Cologne). Visited several seminars and masterclasses for Piano and Organ  
improvisation including studies with O.Latry, Paris; H. Riethmüller, Berlin; P. Eben,  
Prague.

Received the Gottfried Schreuer Award for Organ composition and improvisation  
(Düsseldorf, Germany).

Numerous live-performances throughout the world; has participated in projects for radio,  
television and studio recordings.

Beginning in 1986, Kaets has been intensely involved with composing music for silent  
film. To date over 290 compositions to his credit and over 400 concerts.

Artistic advisor for the original historic Welte-Theatre Organ residing in the Museum for  
Cinema in Düsseldorf; has kept contact to original artists who played organ in movie  
theatres during the silent film Era.

He has been the first composer/artist since the end of the silent film era to perform regularly historic movies within churches with live-music and started the renaissance of this kind of silent-movie-concerts in Germany and middle-europe.

Kaets own compositions have been heard world-wide in **concert halls** (including Cologne (Kölner) Philharmonic, Royal Opera House Muscat / Oman, Oetkerhalle Bielerfeld, Concerthall Wien, Theatre de Cappucines Luxembourg, Concert Hall Perm /Russia and many others...),

**movie theatres** (German Museum of Film, Frankfurt; Institute of Film in Dresden and Düsseldorf)

**and churches** (Hallgrimskirkja Reykjavik/Iceland, Bayreuth, Dom St. Eberhard Stuttgart, Münsterkirche, Villingen; Marienkirche Leipzig, Rochuskirche Cologne (Köln); Münsterkirche Constance (Konstanz), St. Martin Dudelange (Luxembourg)...

Kaets has participated in various silent film festivals; he played at great retrospectives on famous silent movie directors like Fritz Lang, Fr.W. Murnau, Wsewolod Pudowkin, Erich von Stroheim, Carl Th. Dreyer, Charles Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Lew Kuleschow, Sergej Eisenstein...

He has given seminars on silent movie accompaniment in many great European states (Dresden, Essen, Hagen, Leipzig, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Linz, Rheinfelden) and enjoyed a professorship in media arts from 1992 until 2001 at the Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf.

He now lives and works as a musician/composer in Cologne.

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Some outstanding productions within the last years:

„From dusk till dawn“ („Von Morgens bis Mitternacht“): silent movie classic from 1920 with new music for 2 grand pianos, harpsichord, 2 percussionists, tenor solo and mixed choir; world premiere: 2007 Cologne Philharmonic Hall/Germany

„La Passion“ for choir, Soloist and organ: world premiere: 2002 Concert House Vienna/Austria

„Above us one sky“ Oratorio with sounds of nature, technique, vocal and instrumental, from Christian, Islamic and Jewish poetry and music ; world premiere performance with musicians from Germany, Iraq, Russia, Turkey and Israel within the official culture program at EXPO 2000 Hannover/Germany

"Complaint Choir Cologne" – performance for choir, soloists and orchestra; world premiere performance 2008 Cologne Philharmonic hall with live broadcasting in German

culture radio (WDR 3)

Oratorio „What we are missing for luck“ for choir, soloists and intercultural ensemble;  
world premiere performance: 2009 Cologne Philharmonic hall

CineOratorio „King of Kings“ (american silent movie from 1927) with new music for 8  
soloists, double orchestra and mixed choirs; world premiere performance: 2013 Cologne  
Rochus church