

PIETARI INKINEN CONDUCTOR

In September 2017 Pietari Inkinen became Chief Conductor of the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern (German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra). In 16/17 he took up the role of Chief Conductor of the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, having held the role of Principal Guest since 2009. Inkinen has also held the titles of Chief Conductor of the Prague Symphony Orchestra and Chief Conductor of the Ludwigsburg Schlossfestspiele since 2015.

As a guest conductor Inkinen has worked with the Staatskapelle Berlin, Munich Philharmonic, La Scala Philharmonic, Orchestra of Santa Cecilia, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio Symphony, Vienna Radio Symphony, BBC Symphony, City of Birmingham Symphony, Spanish National Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic, Swedish Radio Symphony, Orchestra Verdi Milan and Oslo Philharmonic as well as the Staatskapelle Dresden and the Leipzig Gewandhaus.

Last season Inkinen's guest engagements included his debuts with the Concertgebouw Orchestra, the RSB Berlin and the Budapest Festival Orchestra. Highlights of the 17/18 season include his debuts with the Gurzenich Orchestra in Cologne and the NDR Hamburg, a Finnish Independence Day 100th Anniversary Gala followed by a production of *Madame Butterfly* with the Finnish National Opera, returns to the BBC Philharmonic and Finnish Radio Symphony orchestras and the continuation of a complete Ring Cycle in concert together with the start of a Brahms Cycle with the Japan Philharmonic. Also this season he will feature several recent Finnish works: the world premieres of Rautavaara's final completed symphonic work "*In the Beginning*" and a new work by Olli Vertaperko.

In autumn 2016 Inkinen returned to Melbourne to conduct a revival of Opera Australia's acclaimed 2013 production of Wagner's "*Der Ring des Nibelungen*" directed by Neil Armfield. This is the production which in August 2014 inspired Australia's Helpmann Awards, recognising artistic excellence throughout Australia's vibrant performing arts scene, to vote Inkinen as the award winner for Best Music Direction for Opera Australia's Ring Cycle. The revival in 2016 garnered Inkinen a further Green Room award for Best Conductor (Opera).

Other opera engagements have included the Finnish National Opera, La Monnaie in Brussels, Staatsoper in Berlin and the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. He has conducted Wagner's *Walkure* and *Das Rheingold* in Palermo's Teatro Massimo for which he was awarded Italy's National Association of Music Critics' Franco Abbiati Prize for "Best Show" for *Das Rheingold*. He also conducted performances of a highly successful new production of *Eugene Onegin* at the Dresden Semperoper.

From 2008 to 2016 Pietari was Music Director of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra where he now holds the title of Honorary Conductor. During his tenure, the orchestra rose to new levels with a highly acclaimed European tour, as well as the recording of a complete cycle of Sibelius Symphonies for Naxos. This, and other recordings for Naxos, including the premiere recording of Rautavaara's *Manhattan Trilogy* and a further *live* Sibelius Cycle recorded with the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra in Suntory Hall, have been widely acclaimed. Inkinen has a large number of other recording credits, including Wagner arias and orchestral pieces with Simon O'Neill and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra for EMI, which earned a rare double five-star review from BBC Music Magazine, and the Shostakovich Cello Concerto and Britten Cello Symphony with Johannes Moser for Haenssler.

Also an accomplished violin soloist, Inkinen studied at the Cologne Music Academy with Zakhar Bron, winning various awards and prizes for his solo work, before taking further studies in conducting at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. He continues to enjoy play-directing and performing chamber music with his regular musical partners.

Full biography 2017/2018 - please do not amend without consulting IMG Artists
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