

Pietari Inkinen, Chief Conductor

Finnish conductor Pietari Inkinen has been Chief Conductor of the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken since September 2017. His contract has been renewed until 2025. Inkinen has also been Chief Conductor of the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra since 2016 and he held the same position with the Prague Symphony Orchestra from 2015 until 2020.

Inkinen's recent and future career highlights include debuts with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Gürzenich Orchestra, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, SWR Symphony Orchestra and Budapest Festival Orchestra. In previous seasons Inkinen has also conducted the Staatskapelle Berlin, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Orchestra of Santa Cecilia, Radio France Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra.

Richard Wagner's music plays a major part in Pietari Inkinen's work, and he has been asked to conduct the new production of the Ring at the Bayreuth Festival (directed by Valentin Schwarz). He previously conducted Opera Australia's Melbourne production of the Ring Cycle to great acclaim, receiving the Helpmann Award for it in 2014. In the autumn of 2020, he will conduct Tristan and Isolde with Opera Queensland. Pietari Inkinen also conducted opera productions with the Finnish National Opera, La Monnaie in Brussels, the Berlin Staatsoper and the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. He conducted Wagner's The Valkyrie and The Rhine Gold in Palermo's Teatro Massimo as well as a highly successful new production of Eugene Onegin at the Dresden Semperoper.

While Music Director of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Inkinen recorded a complete cycle of Sibelius Symphonies for Naxos, as well as Rautavaara's Manhattan Trilogy. Other recording credits include Wagner arias and orchestral pieces with tenor Simon O'Neill for EMI, Shostakovich's Cello Concerto No. 1 and Britten's Cello Symphony with Johannes Moser for Haenssler. With the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie, Inkinen has also recorded extracts from Wagner's Siegfried with Lise Lindström and Stefan Vinke (for SWRmusic/Naxos) and he is now continuing the studio recordings of Sergei Prokofiev's symphonies and completing his recordings of Antonin Dvorák's symphonies.

Pietari Inkinen is also an accomplished violinist. He studied violin at the Cologne Music Academy with Zakhar Bron before going on to study conducting at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.