

PIETARI INKINEN - CHIEF CONDUCTOR

Finnish conductor Pietari Inkinen has headed the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra (DRP) since 2017. In summer 2025 he will be stepping down as Chief Conductor so that he can devote more time to his international commitments. He will maintain his links to the orchestra as a guest conductor.

His work with the DRP has focused especially on the major Late Romantic repertoire. In his time with the orchestra he has also comprehensively explored the symphonies of Finland's greatest composer, Jean Sibelius, as well using his in-depth understanding of Richard Wagner's music to make it more accessible to the public. International stars such as Evgeny Kissin, Pinchas Zukerman, Elisabeth Leonskaja and iconic Wagner singers like Andreas Schager and Camilla Nylund are just some of the prestigious soloists who have given concerts with the DRP. During his time as Chief Conductor, Pietari Inkinen has also been actively involved in the DRP's outreach programme entitled "Klassik Lieben Lernen" (Learning to Love Classical Music).

Highly acclaimed for his "thinking on a grand scale", Pietari Inkinen has conducted many renowned orchestras including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia Orchestra, the Radio France Philharmonic Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Pietari Inkinen has been Music Director of the KBS Symphony Orchestra in Seoul since 2022.

The music of Richard Wagner occupies a central place in Pietari Inkinen's work. In summer 2023 he conducted Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelung* at the Bayreuth Festival and then delighted audiences again the same year with his *Tannhäuser* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin. In summer 2021 he had already conducted three performances of *The Valkyries* on the Green Hill. Before that he conducted the Ring Cycle to great

acclaim at Opera Australia in Melbourne, which earned him the Helpmann Award in 2014, followed by the Green Room Award for Best Opera Conductor in 2016. In addition, he was awarded the Italian National Association of Music Critics' Franco Abbiati Prize for his 2014 performance of *The Rhinegold* at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo. With the DRP and soloists Lise Lindstrom and Stefan Vinke he has recorded extracts from Wagner's *Siegfried* for Label SWRmusic/Naxos label.

In October 2023 he was the subject of a television documentary entitled *Ein Taktstock und ein Reisepass - Pietari Inkinen Dirigent* (A Baton and a Passport - Conductor Pietari Inkinen).

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