

Pietari Inkinen

Conductor

In 2015 Pietari Inkinen became Chief Conductor of Prague Symphony Orchestra and the Ludwigsburg Schlossfestspiele. In 2016/17 he will also take up the role of Chief Conductor of the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, having held the role of Principal Guest since 2009. Inkinen is also Honorary Conductor of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, having previously been Music Director from 2008 to 2016.

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, Finnish Radio Symphony, Swedish Radio Symphony and Oslo Philharmonic as well as the Staatskapelle Dresden and the Leipzig Gewandhaus.

Highlights of the 2016/2017 season include Inkinen's debuts with the Concertgebouw Orchestra and the RSB Berlin as well as performances of a highly successful new production of Eugene Onegin at the Dresden Semperoper. He will also take the Prague Symphony on tour to Spain and Austria, begin a project to present the Ring in concert version with the Japan Philharmonic with a performance of Das Rheingold, and conduct the Royal Flemish Philharmonic and Orchestra Verdi in Milan. In autumn 2016 he will return to Melbourne to conduct a revival of Opera Australia's acclaimed 2013 production of Wagner's Der Ring des Nibelungen directed by Neil Armfield. In August 2014 Australia's Helpmann Awards, recognising artistic excellence throughout Australia's vibrant performing arts scene, voted Inkinen as the award winner for Best Music Direction for Opera Australia's Ring Cycle.

Previously Inkinen has conducted at 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 with the Franco Abbiati Prize for "Best Show" for Das Rheingold.

Inkinen has recorded widely for Naxos. The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra's complete cycle of Sibelius Symphonies, 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 violinist, 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.

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