

# Patrik Ringborg, conductor

Patrik Ringborg is one of Sweden's most prolific and internationally sought-after conductors with a vast concert repertory. Additionally he has conducted almost 80 operas, specialising in particular in the music of Wagner and Strauss.

Patrik Ringborg was born in Stockholm, Sweden, and studied there at the Royal College of Music from 1983 to 1987. He completed his studies with Strauss-scholar Kurt Bendix. From 1989 he worked as a répétiteur at the Royal Opera in Stockholm, assisting the Music Director and conducting performances in the Royal Opera House. He also assisted the Music Directors at the Semperoper in Dresden and with Canadian Opera Company in Toronto. In 1993 he first conducted performances in the Royal Opera House.

From then onwards, Germany became his main country of work, beginning as staff director at Theater Freiburg. In 1997 he led a much-acclaimed performance of *Salome* and was promoted to Deputy Music Director. From the same year and until 2003 he conducted at the Aalto-Theater in Essen, where in 1999 he was appointed Principal Conductor and in addition to symphony concerts conducted over 20 operas. He also was the Artistic Director of the German Kurt Weill Festival 2000.

In 2006 Patrik Ringborg returned to Freiburg as Chief Conductor (notable productions being *The Rhine Gold* and *Elektra* ) and 2007 was appointed General Music Director at the *State Theatre* in Kassel. Its State Orchestra, founded in 1502, is one of the world's oldest orchestras. Conductors in the 19th century were Louis Spohr and Gustav Mahler and in more modern times Christoph von Dohnányi, Gerd Albrecht, Woldemar Nelsons, and Ádám Fischer held the post as GMD.

At last count Maestro Ringborg had conducted the State Orchestra in over a hundred concerts and nearly twenty new opera productions. They include Wagner works like *The Flying Dutchman*, *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg*, *Lohengrin*, *Parsifal*, and *Tannhäuser*, Mozart operas like *Magic The Flute*, and *Così fan tutte* and more modern works like *Dialogues des Carmélites*, *Lady Macbeth from Mtsensk*, Aribert Reimann's *Lear*, and Hans Werner Henze's *Orpheus*.

Following on from *Salome* in 2008, he will present new productions of *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and *Der Rosenkavalier* during the Strauss year 2014. Mr. Ringborg is also President of the Orchestra Academy, Founder of the Opera Studio and Artistic Director of the Gustav-Mahler-Festtage in Kassel.

Following his debut in 2004 with *Werther*, Patrik Ringborg has conducted new productions of *Lady Macbeth from Mtsensk* and *Tosca* at the Deutsches Nationaltheater in Weimar, where he also conducted the Staatskapelle Weimar on tour and in symphony concerts. In 2015 he will return with Mahler's 3rd symphony.

He was also a guest conductor at the Staatsoper Dresden, at the Volksoper in Vienna, and at the Deutsche Oper Berlin. In February 2010 his debut at the Opera House in Cologne followed with *Der Rosenkavalier* (including Dame Kiri Te Kanawa's farewell performance). In the same year, the Stockholm Royal Opera presented *Elektra* under his baton at the Opera Festival in Savonlinna – an opera with which he had debuted in a new production at the Norwegian National Opera in 2009. In 2014 he returned to Oslo with a première of *Don Giovanni*.

Patrik Ringborg has been engaged as a guest conductor by over thirty German orchestras such as the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, the Orchestra of Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Munich Radio Orchestra, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, the Staatskapelle in Weimar, the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, the WDR Symphony Orchestra in Cologne, and the Gürzenich Orchestra. He also conducted concerts in Austria, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Norway, and Spain. He is a frequent guest with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra in Dublin, and will return in subsequent seasons.

Foremost Patrik Ringborg is a frequent guest in his native Sweden, where he has worked with all the larger Swedish orchestras. The Gothenburg Opera appointed him Principal Guest Conductor in the year 2000. He had already made his debut there in 1998 with *Tannhäuser* and subsequently conducted all Wagner productions there until 2006. After *Lohengrin* followed the much acclaimed première of *Tristan und Isolde* in 2003, after which the Orchestra of the Gothenburg Opera was awarded the Opera Prize of the newspaper Svenska Dagbladet and Patrik Ringborg was nominated for the Opera Prize founded by the Swedish journal, Tidskriften Opera.

In the subsequent season he conducted a production of *Die Walküre*. 2011 he returned with a new production of *Salome* (directed by Peter Konwitschny), and continues his cooperation with this company in Strauss' *Daphne* (2014) and the world première of Gefors' *Notorious* (2015), directed by Keith Warner and with Nina Stemme in the title role. After the debut with the Gothenburg Symphony, Sweden's National Orchestra, he was invited back with a programme including excerpts from *The Twilight of the Gods*.

In his hometown Stockholm, Maestro Ringborg returned to the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra in 2008 to conduct the Nobel Prize Award Ceremony. A frequent guest there since 1996, he last conducted Bruckner's 4th symphony there. The long awaited opera debut at the Stockholm Royal Opera followed 2013 with a new production of *Parsifal* directed by Christof Loy.

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