

HARTMUT HAENCHEN**Conductor**

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Hartmut Haenchen's high intellect and musical integrity have assured him a place in the forefront of musical life. Brought up in the former East Germany, he has seen his career reborn in the new Europe, where his breadth of experience and depth of understanding have won respect, while audiences have warmed to the humanity of his interpretations. He is particularly renowned and respected for his interpretations of Richard Strauss, Wagner and Mahler.

Despite the severe restrictions of the old East German regime, Hartmut Haenchen was given special permission to work with the West's finest ensembles, including the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Continual interference by the authorities, however, led to severe setbacks in his career and he subsequently made his home in the Netherlands, where a new public recognised his genius, and where eventually he became Music Director of both the Netherlands Philharmonic and the Netherlands Opera. In October 2008 he was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit of the German Republic, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to music and the arts.

Haenchen enjoys ongoing relationships with a number of orchestras throughout the world, including Stockholm Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Japan Philharmonic, Academia di Santa Cecilia, Tonhalle Zurich, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and Orchestre de Paris. Current projects include a Mahler cycle with the Orchestre du Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, as well as a Strauss series with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic (2011-2013) and Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France.

Hartmut Haenchen has close relationships with many important opera houses. He was Music Director of Netherlands Opera for 13 years. During his directorship he embraced a wide-ranging repertoire, including the operas of Strauss, Mozart, Wagner, Verdi, Puccini, Tchaikovsky, Gluck, Berg, Shostakovich and Mussorgsky. He continues to appear there regularly and enjoyed critical success conducting Wagner's *Ring* in a cycle directed by Pierre Audi. Opera magazine reported '*roof-shattering applause*' with '*Haenchen and his orchestra getting especially thunderous ovations*'. This well reviewed Ring Cycle is available on CD/DVD. Other recent productions in Amsterdam include Wagner's *Tannhäuser* and Strauss's *Capriccio*, and plans include a new production of *Der Fliegende Holländer* (2009), *Die Soldaten* (2010), and a further *Ring* cycle (2012-2014).

For Opéra National de Paris recent engagements have included acclaimed productions of Strauss's *Salome* (2006), *Capriccio* (2007), a new production of *Parsifal* (2008), and *Lady Macbeth of Mtzenk* (2009), for which we have awarded the french Grand Prix de la Critique. He opened the 09/10 season in Paris with Berg's *Wozzeck*. Other opera plans include a new production of *Parsifal* at La Monnaie, Brussels and also at the Royal Opera, Copenhagen, *Götterdämmerung* in Athens, *Tannhäuser* in Toulouse and several appearances at Teatro Real, Madrid including a new production of *Boris Godunov*. Other houses where he has received international acclaim include Munich, Vienna and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where he will conduct *Salome* in 2009/10.

He has made more than 120 recordings with his different orchestras, for Berlin Classics, Capriccio, Naxos, Pentatone, Philips, Sony Classical and Vanguard. These include a substantial discography with the Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach Chamber Orchestra, including several prize-winning discs. As well as being a conductor, Hartmut Haenchen is the author of many books on music, including important studies of Wagner and Mahler. His knowledge of musical structure is fundamental to the authority of his interpretations.