

ILAN VOLKOV

Conductor

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Renowned for his interpretations of the Classical and Romantic repertoire, Israeli-born Ilan Volkov is also a passionate advocate of contemporary composers.

Ilan Volkov was Chief conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra from 2003-2009, and is a frequent guest with orchestras throughout the world, including regular relationships with Munich Philharmonic, Ensemble Modern, musikFabrik, Israel Philharmonic, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris and the National Symphony Orchestra Washington. Forthcoming debuts include Bamberg Symphony, SWR Freiburg, BBC Symphony, Orchestre National de Lyon, RSB Berlin and Rotterdam Philharmonic.

With the BBCSSO, Volkov conducted more than 25 concerts each season, and toured with them to the major UK festivals, including the BBC Proms, Edinburgh and Huddersfield. He also led the orchestra on tours including South America and the Netherlands. Through his programming, he played an important role in the orchestra's commitment to contemporary music. Most recently he gave the world premiere of Unsuk Chin's cello concerto with Alban Gehardt at the 2009 BBC Proms. He is currently their Principal Guest conductor.

In the opera house Ilan Volkov has conducted Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* for San Francisco Opera, Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Glyndebourne Festival with the London Philharmonic Orchestra (having previously appeared with Glyndebourne Touring Opera), Britten's *Peter Grimes* at Washington National Opera and plans include Weill's *Mahagonny* in Toulouse.

Born in Israel in 1976, Volkov was appointed Young Conductor in Association to the Newcastle-based Northern Sinfonia at the age of 19. In 1997 he became Principal Conductor of the London Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and two years later was invited by Seiji Ozawa to join the Boston Symphony Orchestra as Assistant Conductor. When appointed Chief Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in January 2003, he was the youngest person to hold such a position with a BBC orchestra.

Volkov regularly records for Hyperion, and has received critical acclaim for many of his recordings. Recent discs include CDs of Stravinsky, Rensky and Taneyev, Janacek orchestral music and a Britten CD, which was the winner of a 2009 Gramophone Award. For NMC recordings include a disc of Jonathan Harvey works (including *Body Mandela* and other works exploring the composer's fascination with Eastern philosophies), which was the winner of a 2008 Gramophone Award.

Ilan Volkov is one of the guiding forces behind Levontin 7, a performance venue in Tel Aviv that brings together differing musical genres including classical, jazz, electronic and rock. Opened in July 2006, it is described by Volkov as '*A way to influence cultural life in Israel in a way that is more subtly apparent than conducting, and more practical than merely giving a concert once every few years.*'