

**OLARI ELTS**

**Conductor**

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Born in Tallinn in 1971, Olari Elts has won great respect for his distinctive interpretative style, in which intelligence and lucidity are always apparent. Winner of the International Sibelius Conductors' Competition in Helsinki in 2000, he became Principal Conductor of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra from 2001-2006, earning praise for his astute programming as well as his music-making. In September 2006 he took up the newly-created position of Artistic Advisor of the Orchestre de Bretagne, and he was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra from the beginning of the 2007/08 season. Also in 2007, he was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra.

Olari Elts's career was launched by the Sibelius Competition, and since then he has developed and continues to maintain relationships with a number of orchestras world-wide, including Finnish Radio, Yomiuri Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Sinfoniker, SWR Stuttgart, Lucerne Symphony, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, City of Birmingham Symphony, Ensemble Modern and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, with whom he made his US debut. He also visits Australia and New Zealand regularly, appearing with orchestras including Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Western Australian Symphony Orchestra and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Opera work includes appearances with the Estonian National Opera, conducting Britten's *Albert Herring* and Puccini's *Il Trittico*, as well as Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and *Idomeneo* with Estonian National Symphony Orchestra. In autumn 2008 he conducted performances of Marschner's *Der Vampyr* at the Rennes Opera House, and also in Hungary.

Olari Elts is founder and director of his own contemporary music ensemble, *NYVD Ensemble*. The ensemble takes its name from the international festival of new music in Estonia, where it gave its debut performance in 1993. The ensemble is flexible in its make-up – 'from a soloist to a chamber orchestra' – and adventurous in its programming. In 2001 Olari Elts was awarded the IVth Class Order of the White Star by his native Estonia, in recognition for his outstanding contribution to music.