

ARI RASILAINEN
CONDUCTOR

Born in Finland, Ari Rasilainen is among the best conductors of his generation. He studied with Jorma Panula at the Sibelius Academy. He also studied with Arvid Jansons (conducting) and Alexander Labko (violin) in Berlin. In 1989, he was awarded with the second prize at the Nikolai Malko International Conducting Competition at Copenhagen. Before he started his career as conductor, he played the violin at the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and at the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra between 1980 and 1986. From 2002 to 2009, he was the Chief Conductor of the Staatsphilharmonie Rheiland-Pfalz Orchestra in Ludwigshafen. Previously he was Chief Conductor of the Laaperanta Orchestra in Finland between 1985 and 1989 and Principal Guest Conductor of Tampere Philharmonic. From 1994 to 2002 he was Chief Conductor of Norway Radio Orchestra. From 1994 to 1998 he was Chief conductor of the Sinfonia Jyväskylä and between 1999 and 2004 of the Pori Sinfonietta.

He regularly conducts the principal Scandinavian orchestras, as well as the orchestras in Europe, among which include the Belgium Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Hungarian Philharmonia, Bundesjuvend Orchester, Oslo and Bergen Philharmonic, Prague Symphony, Opera North in Leeds, Suisse Romande Orchester, Tonkünstler of Vienna, Frankfurt Radio, Leipzig and Stuttgart Symphonies, Hannover Radio Philharmonic, Leipzig Radio Orchestra, Cologne Radio, Berlin Radio Symphony, with acclaimed soloists such as Montserrat Caballé, José Carreras, Julia Fischer, Hilary Hahn, Nigel Kennedy, Shlomo Mintz, Daniel Müller-Schott, Olli Mustonen, Gregory Sokolov, Christian Tetzlaff, Arcadi Volodos, Frank Peter Zimmermann and Nikolaj Znaider.

For the National Finnish Opera he conducted Wagner's *Lohengrin* in 1994, Mozart's *The Magic Flute* in 1998 and 1999, Puccini's *Tosca* in 2001. On season 2005 he conducted *The Horseman* by Aulis Sallinen at the Savonlinna Opera Festival and in 2006 at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. This year he has conducted Evgeny Onegin at the Montpellier Opera and in Wuppertal the new production of Salomé. In Spain he has conducted the orchestras of Galicia, Castilla y León Symphony, National Symphony of Barcelona and Catalunya, Tenerife, Bilbao, Euskadi, Asturias and Sevilla.

He has recorded more than 50 CD's for different labels, with Works by Sibelius, Grieg, Nielsen, Sinding, Saint-Saens and Berg, as well as the complete symphonies of Aulis Sallinen, Kurt Atterberg and Ahmed Adnan Saygun.