

ROBERTO MINCZUK

Conductor

Conductor Roberto Minczuk is currently in his ninth season as Music Director of the Calgary Philharmonic. He also serves as Music Director of the Orquestra Sinfonica Brasileira Rio de Janeiro.

Until 2010 he held the prestigious post of Music Director and Artistic Director of the Opera and Orchestra of the Teatro Municipal Rio de Janeiro and until 2005, he served as Principal Guest Conductor of the Sao Paulo State Symphony Orchestra in Brazil – having completed a nine year tenure as Co-Artistic Director of that same orchestra and a two year period as Associate Conductor of the New York Philharmonic.

A protégé of Kurt Masur, Maestro Minczuk has swiftly established himself as one of the most important emerging talents of his generation. Since his debut with the New York Philharmonic in 1998, he has been invited to conduct extensively in North America, with highly successful appearances at nearly all of the major North American orchestras and many of the European capitals as well.

In March, 2006 he assumed responsibility for much of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's US tour period – filling in for an ailing Kurt Masur and won major critical acclaim and accolades for his leadership of the orchestra in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Maestro Minczuk leads the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Hungarian National Philharmonic Budapest and first appearances with the Cincinnati Opera (Mozart Don Giovanni) and the New York City Ballet this season.

Mr Minczuk returns to the Orchestra National de Lille and the New York City Ballet and makes his debut with the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra this season. Last season saw his acclaimed debut with the Cincinnati Opera and the Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra as well as concerts with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and a triumphant long-awaited return to the New York City Ballet.

In the 2011-12 concert season, Mr Minczuk led concerts with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the BBC National Symphony Orchestra of Wales, the RTE Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, the Orchestre National de Belgique, and the Orchestre National de Lille.

And in the 2010-11 season Maestro Minczuk took the podium for the first time with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Bournemouth Symphony, the Yomiuri-Nippon Symphony Orchestra of Tokyo, and the Odense Symphony as part of the Carl Nielsen International Festival - with whom he also recorded a disc of music by Poul Rouders for the Bridge Records Label.

That year he also made welcome returns to the Dallas Symphony (world premiere performances of Poul Rouders Symphony No. 4), the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, the Vancouver Symphony, the Utah Symphony, the Kansas City Symphony and the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia as part of a Kimmel Center Festival conducting the world premiere of a new Jonathan Sheffer oratorio with Angelique Kidjo as a major soloist.

As guest conductor in recent seasons Maestro Minczuk has led debut appearances with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, the Bergen Philharmonic and the Helsinki Philharmonic; and he continued to make return visits to the orchestras with which he maintains a very close relationship - the London Philharmonic Orchestra, L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Orchestre National de Lille, the Orchestre National de Belgique, the Utah Symphony and the RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland.

Other notable highlights of the past several years include his presence at the Barbican Festival in January, 2006 in a program introducing the works of Argentinian composer Osvaldo Golijov to the United Kingdom with soprano Dawn Upshaw and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, his first appearance at the Edinburgh Festival in August, 2006 with the Opera de Lyon and his Concertgebouw Hall debut conducting the Residentie Orchestra of the Hague also in August, 2006.

Minczuk has also conducted the orchestras of Philadelphia, Atlanta, St. Louis, Dallas, Houston, Minnesota, St. Paul, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Toronto, Edmonton, Milwaukee, Nashville, Utah, Ottawa, Columbus, and New Jersey. On the international circuit, Maestro Minczuk has also appeared with (in addition to those above) the Halle Orchestra of Manchester, the Basel Symphony Orchestra, the Oslo Philharmonic, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre National de Lyon and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra among many others.

Maestro Minczuk recently completed a major recording project of the complete Bachianas Brasileiras of Hector Villa-Lobos with his own Sao Paulo State Symphony Orchestra for the BIS label - which has won the Gramophone award of excellence in 2012 for best recording of this repertoire. With OSESP he has also released a recording of rare and unusual repertoire by Brazilian composers of the 20th century (Danzas Brasileiras) and the complete symphonic works of Antonio Carlos Jobim – a recording which won him a Latin Grammy in 2004.

Mr. Minczuk began his career as a prodigy of the French horn and already by the age of sixteen could count among his significant accomplishments the appointment of Principal Hornist of the São Paulo Symphony. While a student at The Juilliard School, he made solo appearances with the New York Youth Symphony at Carnegie Hall and with the New York Philharmonic as part of the orchestra's Young People's Concerts.

After his graduation from Juilliard in 1987, Mr. Minczuk became a member of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra at the invitation of Maestro Kurt Masur. Returning to Brazil in 1989, he pursued conducting studies with Eleazar de Carvalho and John Neschling.

Roberto Minczuk has won many prestigious awards and prizes. At the recommendation of Kurt Masur, he received the 2000 Martin E. Segal Award as one of Lincoln Center's most promising young artists. Other awards include the 1997 Revelation of the Year Award given to the most outstanding young artist by the Performing Arts Critics Association in São Paulo, and the 1991 Moinho Santista Youth Prize (the most important prize in Brazil) awarded in various disciplines for extraordinary achievement in a chosen field.