

biography



THIERRY FISCHER – CONDUCTOR

Swiss conductor Thierry Fischer recently renewed his contract as Music Director of the Utah Symphony Orchestra, where he has revitalised the music-making and programming, and brought a new energy to the orchestra and organisation as a whole.

His hallmarks are a lightness of touch and transparency of texture, allowing room for vivid characterisation. He has a keen stylistic sense, and where appropriate uses natural brass and baroque timpani. Fischer has given many world premieres, and has instigated a major commissioning programme in Utah, starting in Spring 2012 with a cello concerto for Jean-Luc Queyras composed by Michel Jarrell, which he will also conduct with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in 2014.

Fischer was Principal Conductor of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales from 2006-2012 and will return as a guest in 2013 and beyond. Highlights of his tenure included the orchestra's first tour to China as well as to prestigious venues in Europe and the USA; annual visits to the BBC Proms; major celebrations of Messiaen and Dutilleux; and acclaimed recordings of Stravinsky, Honegger and Frank Martin.

A busy guesting career has taken him to orchestras as diverse as the Philharmonia, Orchestre of the Age of Enlightenment, Czech Philharmonic, Orchestre National de Lyon, WDR Cologne, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, London Sinfonietta, to name just a few. He has also collaborated regularly with leading chamber orchestras such as the Scottish Chamber, Northern Sinfonia, Netherlands Radio Chamber, Swedish Chamber and Ensemble Orchestral de Paris.

In 2012 Fischer's recording for Hyperion of Frank Martin's opera *Der Sturm* ('The Tempest') with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus (live from the Amsterdam Concertgebouw) was awarded the International Classical Music Award (opera category). Other recent Hyperion releases have included Honegger, d'Indy and Florent Schmitt with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales – with whom he has also recorded the Stravinsky ballets for Signum. Fischer has also recorded for ASV and Chandos, and his recording on Deutsche Grammophon of Frank Martin with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe was nominated for a Gramophone Award.

Fischer started out as Principal Flute in Hamburg and at the Zurich Opera. His conducting career began in his 30's when he replaced an ailing colleague, subsequently directing his first few concerts with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe where he was Principal Flute under Claudio Abbado. He spent his apprentice years in Holland, and became Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Ulster Orchestra 2001-6. He was Chief Conductor of the Nagoya Philharmonic 2008-2011, making his Suntory Hall debut in Tokyo in May 2010, and is now Honorary Guest Conductor.

Thierry Fischer is represented by Intermusica.

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