

## Ilan Volkov

### Conductor

*Ilan Volkov showed himself again to be a conductor of great sensitivity, intelligently and unfussily guiding the orchestra through the three strikingly different works.*

The Guardian

Born in Israel in September 1976, Ilan Volkov began his conducting career at the age of nineteen. Following studies at London's Royal College of Music, he secured positions as Principal Conductor of the London Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony. In 2003 he was appointed Principal Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and subsequently became its Principal Guest Conductor in 2009. Between 2011 and 2014 he held the post of Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra.

Ilan Volkov is the electricity powering 'new music'. Since 2012, his Tectonics festivals in Reykjavik and Glasgow have been exemplars of vibrant and diverse programming, reflecting his omnivorous interests in experimental classical, free improvisation, electronica, folk, world music, new hip-hop etc. Since 2014, Tectonics has expanded even further with additional residencies in Adelaide, Oslo, New York, Tel Aviv, London, Krakow and Athens.

A frequent guest with leading orchestras worldwide, Ilan Volkov works regularly with a wide range of ensembles, and appears in many of the foremost Festivals of the world, including Salzburg, Edinburgh, BBC Proms, Lucerne and Berlin. Highlights of his schedule include performances with the BBC Symphony and Stuttgart Opera, as well as CBSO, SWR Stuttgart, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, Ensemble Intercontemporain, WDR Köln and Oslo Philharmonic orchestras.

Equally interested in opera, Volkov has conducted Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* for San Francisco Opera, Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Glyndebourne Festival, *Peter Grimes* for Washington National Opera, Kurt Weill's *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* for Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse, Bartók's *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* with the Israeli Opera, Gerald Barry's *Importance of being Ernest* at the Lincoln Centre in New York. In 2016-17, he will be conducting large extracts from Unsuk Chin's *Alice* in Seoul.

His diverse discography includes projects with Hyperion including two albums of Stravinsky's ballet scores, comprising *Jeu de cartes*, *Agon*, *Orpheus*, *Le baiser de la fée* and *Scènes de ballet*; Britten's complete works for piano and orchestra, a Gramophone Award-winning recording with Steven Osborne, and a critically acclaimed survey of Liszt's three *Funeral Odes* with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra released in the composer's anniversary year. Volkov's NMC disc of works by Jonathan Harvey, *Body Mandala*, received a Gramophone Award in 2008 while his recording for the Aeon label of Harvey's *Speakings* won the prestigious Monaco Prize and the Prix Caecilia de l'Union de la Presse Musicale Belge in 2011.