

Vladimir Fanshil

Conductor

“The discovery of the festival was Vladimir Fanshil, under whose leadership the State Hermitage Orchestra presented a convincing programme (...) Fanshil felt at ease in this modern music programme. His charming wit and fine sense of humour ensured a firecracker of an ending to the festival.”

Anastasia Mursalova, St Petersburg Musical Times

Behind Vladimir Fanshil's music-making lies a deep artistic hinterland. The Australian conductor, a published poet, skilled linguist and fine pianist, has an ear for the finest tonal details and a heart open to every nuance of emotion. His compelling artistry stands on foundations securely built upon studies at the St Petersburg Conservatory and the experience of a four-year term as assistant to Iván Fischer in Budapest and Berlin.

Fanshil's approach to programming is informed by innovation, imagination and a determination to liberate classical music from audience-limiting conventions. Those qualities were present throughout his work from 2013-16 as founder and Music Director of the Debut to Master series in St Petersburg, not least in its collaborations with artists from other disciplines, club nights at the St Petersburg Philharmonic's Small Hall, and successful mission to connect new audiences with the experience of live performance. His core repertoire, meanwhile, flows from the mainstream of Russian and Classical symphonic music.

Fanshil's 2016-17 season saw a series of landmark debuts, including concerts with the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic and Konzerthausorchester Berlin, a critically acclaimed account of Prokofiev's Symphony No.7 with the Budapest Festival Orchestra, and his first appearance at the Mariinsky Theatre Concert Hall with the Mariinsky Orchestra and pianist Alexei Volodin. In 2017 he returned to his home city for the first time in 27 years to conduct the Odessa Philharmonic Orchestra in a programme of works by Glinka, Martinů and Prokofiev. He also made his debut with the Odessa National Opera with Verdi's *La traviata* and the Orchestre national d'Île de France with Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.1 and Symphony No.5. His forthcoming dates for 2018-19 include returns to the Mariinsky Orchestra and the Odessa Philharmonic, and his debut with the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra in October.

Vladimir Fanshil was born in Odessa in 1984 and moved to Australia with his family at the age of five. Raised in Sydney, he was encouraged to make music, explore poetry and literature, and cultivate a strikingly wide range of interests. Young Vladimir began studying piano at the age of five and received lessons from his mother, who had studied in Moscow with Lev Naumov, assistant to the legendary pianist and pedagogue Heinrich Neuhaus. He also studied violin, learned to write poetry, and acquired invaluable skills in jazz dance. Fanshil chose to study advanced mathematics at university but turned to piano practice and writing poetry as retreats from the dull realities of first-year accountancy. He changed course to enrol at the Sydney

Conservatorium of Music to study piano with Professor Nikolai Evrov in 2003 and began to conduct youth choirs and small ensembles soon after.

In 2007 Vladimir became the first Australian to win a place to study conducting and piano at the St Petersburg Conservatory. It is here that he expanded his deep passion for Russian culture and learned enduring lessons about interpretation and musicianship from pianist Alexander Sandler, composer Yuri Falik and musicologists Arkadi Klimovitsky and Igor Rogalev. Soon after completing his master's degree in 2012, Fanshil assisted Simone Young at the Hamburg Staatsoper for the company's new production of Borodin's Prince Igor. Other highlights of his early career include making his Sydney Opera House debut as conductor of a charity gala concert, a Beethoven symphony cycle with the National Youth Orchestra of Ukraine, four years of guest conducting engagements with the State Hermitage Orchestra in St Petersburg, and a number of opera productions including *La Traviata* and *Evgeny Onegin*.

www.vladimirfanshil.com