

Benjamin Schwartz

Conductor

Benjamin Schwartz was a sensation... With his clear insight and perfection of technique, together with the highly motivated orchestra, he produced an air of excitement and cultivated sound

Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung

Critics have hailed Benjamin Schwartz for the intensity of his music making and the clear vision of his interpretations. These qualities, applied to a strikingly broad repertoire, flow naturally from the conductor's profound musicianship and insatiable curiosity.

Swartz served as Music Director of the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic from 2013 to 2016, where he oversaw the acclaimed Polish institution's move to the National Forum of Music and was closely involved with its work during Wrocław's turn as 2016 European Capital of Culture. In September 2019, he became Principal Guest Conductor of the Duisburg Philharmonic. Former positions include Resident Conductor at the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the San Francisco Youth Orchestra.

Swartz's repertoire choices reflect his anti-dogmatic, open-minded approach to programming, embracing everything from Adams' *Chamber Symphony* to Mahler's *Symphony No.4*, Brahms' *Symphony No.2* to Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle*. He toured *Age of Anxiety*, a project developed in collaboration with the sculptor, painter and stage designer Alexander Polzin. The production, based on the poetry of W.H. Auden, employed music and paintings to show the tumultuous events of early 20th century.

As a guest conductor Swartz has featured with, among others, the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the BBC Scottish Symphony, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Tokyo Symphony, the Göteborg Symphony orchestras, the Orquestra Gulbenkian, the St Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Lahti Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestre National de Lille.

Opera has been a mainstay in recent seasons with Bernstein's *Candide* at Oper Köln, *Die Fledermaus* and *La bohème* at the Royal Swedish Opera and Berlioz's *Béatrice et Bénédict* at the Deutsches Nationaltheater und Staatskapelle Weimar. As part of a developing collaboration with the ballet company of Opéra National de Paris, Beni has conducted, amongst others, Pina Bausch's choreography of *The Rite of Spring*, Balanchine's *Jewels* and performances of *Giselle* at Tokyo's Bunka Kaikan.

Beni's discography include works by Albert Schnelzer with the Göteborg Symphony Orchestra for BIS, pieces by Poul Ruders with the Odense Symphony Orchestra and music by Vasco Mendonça with the Gulbenkian Orchestra. In March 2017 he released a series of recordings of works by Paweł Mykietyn on the NFM's own label.