

Ilan Volkov

Conductor

Ilan Volkov proved to be enormously expressive digging deep but allowing his players just the right amount of freedom. I'm not sure I have heard this music interpreted with more immaculacy and freshness than it was here. This was less a "played" performance – it was a white-hot interpretation created for the moment.

Opera Today

Since his prodigious breakthrough as Assistant Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra at the age of 19, Ilan Volkov has matured into a versatile conductor whose interpretations of familiar repertoire are sought after internationally. He enjoys a long-standing relationship with BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, as Principal Conductor from 2003 and Principal Guest Conductor since 2009. The 2022-23 season sees the start of Volkov's tenure as Principal Guest Conductor with the Brussels Philharmonic.

A musical omnivore, Volkov also serves as a dynamic figurehead of the international contemporary music scene. He launched the Tectonics Festival in 2012, which has since become one of the world's most diverse and acclaimed celebrations of new music, with festivals in Adelaide, Oslo, New York, Tel Aviv, Krakow, Athens, Glasgow and Reykjavik. In 2020 he co-founded the I&I Foundation with Ilya Gringolts to support the development and performance of new music.

Volkov's repertoire with a variety of ensembles spreads far and wide, and he often appears at the world's foremost festivals, such as Salzburg, Edinburgh, BBC Proms, Lucerne, Unsound Krakow, Musikprotkoll and Berlin.

Equally at home in opera, his extensive operatic ventures have included 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 and Glyndebourne Festival, and Gerald Barry's *The Importance of Being Ernest* at the Lincoln Center with New York Philharmonic, Bach's *Actus Tragicus* at Stuttgart Opera, and Olga Neuwirth's *The Outcast* in Vienna and Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie. Recently he conducted the world premiere of Missy Mazzoli's new work *The Listeners* with Norwegian National Opera, and Samir Odeh-Tamimi's new creation *L'Apocalypse Arabe* for the Aix Festival.

Volkov's diverse discography includes Stravinsky's ballet scores and a Gramophone Award-winning recording of Britten's complete works for piano and orchestra, both for Hyperion, and a critically acclaimed survey of Liszt's three Funeral Odes with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. He has a podcast for Radio Halas, in which he explores his extensive musical tastes and interviews colleagues.