



OLARI ELTS

Conductor

“The true star of the show, though, was Estonian conductor Olari Elts, who rather magically managed to conjure quite analytical, microscopically detailed performances that still sparkled with spontaneity and fresh, vivid life. [Haydn Symphony No.86]”

The Scotsman

Olari Elts’s passion for distinctive programming rich with invention has earned him much praise on the international music scene. He appears with orchestras such as Seattle Symphony, Wiener Symphoniker, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, NDR Sinfonieorchester Hamburg, SWR Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart, Staatskapelle Weimar, Finnish Radio and Danish National symphony orchestras, Netherland Radio Philharmonic, Orchestre National de Lyon, Orquesta Sinfonica do Porto Casa da Musica, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, Malaysian Philharmonic and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

In 2016/17 season Olari makes his debut with Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, also conducting Orchestre National de Radio France (Paris Presence festival), Seattle Symphony, National Arts Orchestra Ottawa (including the world premiere of Gary Kulesha’s *Diary of Virginia Woolf*). Further guest conducting includes concerts with Helsinki Philharmonic, Weimar Staatskapelle, Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfonica do Porto Casa da Musica, Lahti Symphony Orchestra and Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra.

Olari Elts is also well known for his work with chamber ensembles earning high praise for concerts last season with Scottish Chamber Orchestra. This season sees the continuation of his recording project of works Erkki-Sven Tüür with Tapiola Sinfonietta including the viola concerto with Lawrence Power. Soloists with whom he collaborates include Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, Olli Mustonen, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Simon Trpceski, Stephen Hough, Isabelle Faust, Baiba Skride, Gautier and Renaud Capuçon, Sol Gabetta, Alban Gerhardt, Kari Kriikku, Martin Grubinger, Sally Matthews and Lilli Paasikivi.

In the opera field, Elts has successfully led a new production of *Eugene Onegin* for Arctic Opera taking it on tour through Norway in February 2015. He has led several productions at the Estonian National Opera, including Britten’s *Albert Herring* and Puccini’s *Il Trittico*, as well as Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and *Idomeneo* with both Latvian and Estonian National Symphony Orchestra. He has conducted Berlioz’s *La Damnation du Faust* at the Opéra de Rennes in 2010

Elts’s passion for fellow Estonian Erkki-Sven Tüür’s music was marked by the release of an all-Tüür recording in 2014 including Symphony No. 5 for electric guitar, orchestra, big band and the accordion concerto *Prophecy* (Ondine).

Olari Elts continues as the Principal Guest Conductor of the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra. Positions he has previously held include Principal Guest Conductor of the Helsinki Philharmonic from 2011-2014, Principal Guest of the Orchestre de Bretagne from 2006-2011, Principal Guest Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra from 2007-2010, Principal Conductor of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra from 2001-2006. Born in Tallinn in 1971, Olari Elts is founder of his contemporary music ensemble, NYYD Ensemble.

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