



OLARI ELTS

Conductor

“There’s an irresistible energy and joy in Elts’ conducting style; he leaps about the podium, sweeping his arms and hands in enthusiastic but exquisitely clear, focused gestures. His gift for revealing inner structures gave the symphony a fresh, living dimensionality.”

Artsfile Ottawa

Olari Elts’ 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, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Orchestre National de Lyon, Orquesta Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic and Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Soloists with whom he collaborates include Jean-Efflam Bavouzet, Gautier and Renaud Capuçon, Brett Dean, Isabelle Faust, Alban Gerhardt, Martin Grubinger, Martin Helmchen, Stephen Hough, Felix Kleiser, Kari Kriikku, Sally Matthews, Karita Mattila, Baiba Skride and Antoine Tamastit.

The 2017/18 season sees Elts return to the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra (Dublin), Ulster Orchestra, Warsaw Philharmonic, Slovenia Philharmonic of Ljubljana, Robert-Schumann Philharmonie Chemnitz and debut with Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. Crossing genres, Elts tours to the Konzerthaus Berlin with the theatre-concert production which combines Mendelssohn and Shakespeare’s “Midsummer Night’s Dream” with the Tallinn-based theatre company NO99. For Leonard Bernstein’s 100th anniversary, Elts conducts the film “On the Waterfront” with live orchestral accompaniment of the soundtrack both with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Luxembourg and on a return to Orquesta Sinfonica do Porto Casa da Musica. Recently Elts conducted Orchestre National de France at the Paris Présence Festival featuring new works by Kaija Saariaho, Ondřej Adámek and Helena Tulve. With the National Arts Orchestra Ottawa he conducted the world premiere of Gary Kulesha’s *Diary of Virginia Woolf*.

This season sees the continuation of a recording project of works by Estonian composer Heino Eller including Eller’s violin concerto with Baiba Skride and the Estonian National Philharmonic. Elts’ discography for Ondine includes a disc last season of Erkki-Sven Tüür works with Tapiola Sinfonietta including the viola concerto with Lawrence Power, and a release of Tüür’s Symphony No. 5 for electric guitar, orchestra, big band and the accordion concerto *Prophecy*. His 2016 recording of Brahms’ arrangements (Detlev, Berio) with Helsinki Philharmonic won high praise.

In the opera field, Elts led a new production of *Eugene Onegin* for Arctic Opera on tour in Norway in 2015 and titles such as Britten’s *Albert Herring* and Puccini’s *Il Trittico* at the Estonian National Opera as well as Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and *Idomeneo* with both Latvian and Estonian National Symphony Orchestras. At the Opéra de Rennes, he conducted Berlioz’s *La Damnation du Faust*.

Elts is Principal Guest Conductor of the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra. He was 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 and Principal Conductor of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra from 2001-2006. Born in Tallinn in 1971, Elts is founder of his contemporary music ensemble, NYDD Ensemble.

SEASON 2017/18

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