



## MICHAEL FRANCIS

### Conductor

*"In Francis' mesmerizing grip, the deep dark grief [of Britten's Sinfonia da Requiem] surged quietly, tore agonizingly, built into an excruciating outburst and brightened."* **Helsingin Sanomat**

The British conductor Michael Francis is one of a young generation of conductor whose presence is being felt on both sides of the Atlantic. In Autumn 2015 Michael Francis took up his post as Music Director of the Florida Orchestra in Tampa, FL. In Summer 2016 Michael Francis presided over his second season as Music Director of the Mainly Mozart Festival, San Diego – only the second Music Director to follow in the footsteps of its' founder, David Atherton. He was Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra 2012 - 2016.

In Europe, Francis has conducted the London Symphony Orchestra, where, as a member of the double bass section of the orchestra his conducting skills firstly came to prominence with a remarkable debut in 2007 when he replaced an indisposed Valery Gergiev at the BBC's Gubaidulina Festival in London's Barbican. 2016/17 season includes concerts with the orchestras of MDR Leipzig, Dresden Philharmonic, the Komische Oper Berlin, Deutsche Radio Symphonie, Trondheim Symphony, and Tampere Philharmonic. He will work with soloists including Ian Bostridge, Steven Osbourne, Julian Steckel, Valerie Sokolov and Alexandra Dariescu.

In the USA Michael Francis made a stunning debut with the Cleveland Orchestra debut in Summer 2016. In 2016/17 he will further conduct the Montreal Symphony, Toronto Symphony with Emanuel Ax as soloist, Atlanta Symphony with Benjamin Grosvenor and in New York he will make his debut with the Orchestra of St Luke's.

Michael Francis has maintained an impressive schedule of guest engagements which in recent seasons has also included San Francisco, Cincinnati, Seattle, New World Symphony orchestras, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic and Scottish Symphony orchestras, English Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre, Malaysia Philharmonic, Stuttgart Radio Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic, and Radio and Television orchestra of Madrid. Passionate about working with professional musicians of tomorrow Francis has recently undertaken two extensive projects with the Canadian Youth Orchestra of Canada and National Youth Orchestra of Scotland the latter in collaboration with Håkan Hardenberger as soloist.

Michael Francis has released a recording of the complete Rachmaninov piano concertos with Valentina Lisitsa and the London Symphony Orchestra for Decca in 2013. Francis has recorded Rihm's *Lichtes Spiel* with Anne-Sophie Mutter and the New York Philharmonic (Deutsche Grammophon 2011). Previous recordings with the London Symphony include the Rachmaninov/Warenberg piano concerto No.5 and Shostakovich No.2 with Julius-Jeongwon Kim (Sony 2011) and the Ravel and Gershwin piano concertos with Ian Parker (Atma 2010).

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