

Sakari Oramo



Sakari Oramo is Chief Conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Principal Conductor of Kokkola Opera, and Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. Between 1999 and 2008 he was Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Oramo appears regularly as guest conductor with the most prestigious orchestras, including the Berliner Philharmoniker, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, NDR Sinfonieorchester and the New York and Oslo Philharmonics. Future highlights include engagements with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Göteborgs Symfoniker, Staatskapelle Dresden,

Orchestre de Paris and a European tour with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe in April 2010.

Originally a concertmaster of the orchestra and an accomplished violinist, Sakari Oramo rose to prominence after stepping in to conduct the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra at a very short notice. The success of this concert led to his appointment as Associate Principal Conductor with the orchestra in 1993, becoming their Chief Conductor in 2003.

During his ten seasons as Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Sakari Oramo toured extensively with the orchestra, including a visit to Romania in 2001 where he was awarded the prize for an “outstanding performance of Enescu’s work” at the George Enescu International Festival in Bucharest.

Oramo’s programmes reflect his Finnish origins, and explore the English tradition through composers such as Bax, Bridge, Britten, Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Walton and Constant Lambert. He is also a strong advocate of contemporary music. In 2003 he was Artistic Director of ‘Floop’ – the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra’s critically-acclaimed new music festival.

Sakari Oramo has many recordings to his credit. With the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra he has recorded for Ondine a number of discs, including twentieth and twenty-first century works by Finnish composer such as Klami, Pingoud, Kaipainen and Lindberg. Oramo has also featured on record as a violinist, performing Kurtag’s Kafka-Fragments with the soprano Anu Komsu, as well as works by Magnus Lindberg with the Avanti! String Quartet and with the Avanti! Chamber Orchestra for Ondine.

Oramo's highly-acclaimed discs with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra on Warner Classics include a live recording of Mahler’s Symphony No. 5, a complete Sibelius Symphony Cycle, and Grieg and Sibelius songs with soprano Karita Mattila. He has also recorded Shostakovich’s Violin Concerto No.1 with Leila Josefowicz, and the Rachmaninov Piano Concertos with Nikolai Lugansky. His complete set of Saint-Saëns Piano Concertos with Stephen Hough for Hyperion has earned several awards, including the Gramophone ‘Gold Disc’ Award in 2008.

In June 2004, Sakari Oramo received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Central England, Birmingham, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the musical life of the

city. In 2008 he was awarded the Elgar Medal for furthering the reputation of Elgar and his music, and in 2009 he received an Honorary OBE from HM the Queen in recognition of his services to music.

2009/10 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography.