Stefan Asbury

Conductor

Honorary Conductor of the Noord Nederlands Orkest and a regular guest with leading orchestras worldwide, Stefan Asbury’s 2018/19 season includes debuting with the Auckland Philharmonia, China National Symphony Orchestra and Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa. He also makes his first appearance at Beethovenfest Bonn (with the MDR Sinfonieorchester Leipzig) whilst further collaborations include Ensemble Musikfabrik, Szczecin Philharmonic Orchestra, Nash Ensemble, Orquestra Sinfônica do Paraná, Orquesta SInfonica de Peru and the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

The 2017/18 season saw Stefan debut with the NHK Symphony Orchestra and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, as well as returning to conduct the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester and Copenhagen Phil, amongst others. He also performed at the Tongyeong International Music Festival and adjudicated at the Besançon International Music Festival for the first time.

Stefan has particularly strong relationships with many living composers including Steve Reich, Wolfgang Rihm, Unsuk Chin and Mark-Anthony Turnage. In 2015/16, he conducted the world premiere of Bernd Richard Deutsch’s Organ Concert at the Musikverein in Vienna. In the 2014/15 season he conducted the world premiere of Sir Harrison Birtwistle’s Piano Concerto with Pierre-Laurent Aimard and Sinfonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, and also gave the US premiere with Aimard and Boston Symphony Orchestra. Following the sad passing of Oliver Knussen, a very close mentor, Stefan will conduct his last completed composition with the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

As a recording artist, Stefan’s CD of music by Jonathan Harvey was awarded aMonde de la Musique CHOCaward, and his complete cycle of Gerard Grisey’s *Les* *Espaces Accoustiques* with WDR Sinfonieorchester Kölnwon a Deutschen Schallplattenkritik award

Stefan frequently collaborates with Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln, and hr-Sinfonieorchester, and regularly appears at festivals such as Munich’s Biennale, Salzburger Festspiele, La Biennale di Venezia and Wien Modern. He also works with Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Musikfabrik and London Sinfonietta. Recent guest engagements include the London and Tokyo symphony orchestras, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Dresdner Philharmonie, and the Orchestra of St. Luke’s.

In October 2013 he conducted the world premiere of Michael Jarell’s *Siegfried Nocturne* at the Wagner Geneva Festival. Other recent opera engagements include *Porgy and Bess* at the Spoleto Festival, John Adams’ *A Flowering Tree* for the Perth International Arts Festival, Wolfgang Rihm’s *Jakob Lenz* for the Wiener Festwochen, Britten’s *Owen Wingrave* with Tapiola Sinfonietta and Knussen’s *Where the Wild Things Are* at Tanglewood. He also collaborated with Copenhagen Phil and the Danish Dance Theatre on a new production of *The Firebird*, the Mark Morris Dance Group in productions of Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet,* and Virgil Thomson’s *Four Saints in Three Acts* with performances at the Lincoln Center in New York, London’s Barbican and the Brooklyn Academy of Music amongst other venues.

Since 1995 Stefan Asbury has served on the faculty of the Tanglewood Music Center and has held the Sana H. Sabbagh Master Teacher Chair on the Conducting Faculty since 2005. In addition to his regular summer teaching he has given masterclasses at the Hochschule der Kunste (Zürich), Venice and Geneva’s Conservatoires, and with the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s *Inside the TMC*.