

BIOGRAPHY

TÕNU KALJUSTE, CONDUCTOR



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Estonian conductor Tõnu Kaljuste established himself within his intensive activity for composers such as Kurtág, Penderecki, Kancheli and Schnittke as a specialist of Estonian composers like Arvo Pärt, Erkki-Sven Tüür, Veljo Tormis, Heino Eller and Tõnu Korvits. Tõnu Kaljuste is the founder of the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir and the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra. He had also been Chief Conductor and First Guest Conductor of the Swedish Radio Choir and Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Chamber Choir.

Since 2001 his interest is conducting symphonic repertoire, opera and oratorios. Numerous invitations led him to appearances with the Swedish Radio Symphony, Oslo Philharmonic, Danish Radio Symphony, Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken, Bremen Philharmonic, Tonkünstlerorchester, BBC National Symphony Orchestra of Wales, Japan Century Symphony Orchestra, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Salzburg, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Norwegian Chamber Orchestra and Irish Chamber Orchestra among others.

In 2007/08 Kaljuste gave his debut at the Hamburg Opera with Lera Auerbach's ballett *The Little Mermaid*. At the Nargen Festival 2007 Tõnu Kaljuste conducted *Fidelio* with the Chamber Orchestra Tallinn and Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir as well as Haydn's opera *Il mondo della luna* in 2008.

Upcoming highlights include engagements with Swedish National Youth Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Gunma Symphony Japan, Estonian National Symphony, Swedish Chamber Orchestra etc.

His discography includes many recordings with ECM Records, Virgin Classic and Caprice Records. His recordings have been Grammy nominees as lately *In Principio* as well as *Orient & Occident* performing new compositions for orchestra and choir by Arvo Pärt (ECM Records) and have won a number of prizes (Diapason d'Or, Cannes Classical Award, Edison Prize, Brit Award).

Tõnu Kaljuste has been appointed a member of the Royal Music Academy of Sweden and was awarded the Japanese ABC Music Award and Robert Edler Prize.

Since 2004 he has been appointed Artistic Director of the Nargen Opera in Estonia.

Season 2011/12

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