

MARIJN SIMONS BIOGRAPHY

Marijn Simons is Conductor, Founder and Artistic Director of the Simons Ensemble. Since 2012 he has been an Assistant Conductor at the Opernfestspiele in Heidenheim. During the 2013 edition of the Opernfestspiele Heidenheim Simons was Artistic Director of the bi-annual Zeitgenossen festival.

Simons has conducted amongst others the WDR Radio Orchestra Cologne, Stuttgart Philharmonic, Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra, Aachen Symphony Orchestra, New Music Ensemble Aachen, Leipzig Symphony Orchestra, Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie (Koblenz), Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie (Konstanz), Philharmonie Südwestfalen, Cappella Aquileia (Heidenheim), Audite Nova Ensemble (Heidenheim), Orquesta Sinfónica del IPN (Mexico City), Orquesta Sinfónica Nacional de Guatemala, National Radio Chamber Orchestra (Bucharest), State Philharmonic Orchestra of Sibiu, St. Petersburg Chamber Orchestra, Yekaterinburg Chamber Orchestra, State Safonov Philharmonic Orchestra (Russia), Limburg Symphony Orchestra, Nieuw Amsterdams Peil, the Simons Ensemble and the Czech Philharmonic Choir Brno. With the Kharkiv Philharmonic Simons conducted the first performance in the Ukraine of Mahler's *Symphony no. 1* to include the symphonic movement *Blumine*. Future engagements include conducting his own *Symphony no. 3* during the Enescu Festival in 2021.

Simons has also performed worldwide as a violinist. Highlights from his solo career include the world première of Villa-Lobos's violin concerto *Fantasia de Movimentos Mixtos* with the National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico conducted by Enrique Diemecke, the Italian première of Milhaud's 2nd violin concerto with the Orquesta Sinfónica Siciliana and the Dutch première of MacMillan's violin concerto *A Deep but Dazzling Darkness* with the Radio Chamber Orchestra conducted by the composer. Simons also played as a Concert Master with several German orchestras including the Aachen Symphony Orchestra, Nuremberg State Philharmonic and at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein with the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra and the Duisburg Philharmonic.

Simons' compositions have been commissioned and performed by such conductors and soloists as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Marin Alsop, Peter Eötvös, James MacMillan, Marcus Bosch, Christian Lindberg, Evelyn Glennie, Colin Currie, Liza Ferschtman, Dorothee Oberlinger and by orchestras and ensembles such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, The Hague Philharmonic, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Aachen Symphony Orchestra, Prague Chamber Orchestra, Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra, Cuarteto Latinoamericano, Tambuco Percussion Ensemble and the 12 Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic.

Simons was Composer-in-Residence at the Cabrillo Festival, Delft Chamber Music Festival, Orlando Festival and the Zeitgenossen festival. His compositions have been performed at concert venues such as the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Dortmund, Cologne Philharmonic Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles), National Centre for the Arts (Mexico City) and the Hanoi Opera House. He has received the Philip Morris Arts Prize, Limburg Culture Award, Wim Bary Perspective Award and his composition *The City of the Soul* has been awarded Best Dutch Choral Composition in 2001. Recordings of his music have been released by Composers' Voice, Etcetera, NorthWest Classics, Quintone, Amstel Records and Erasmus labels.

October 2014 saw the world première of his first opera *Emilia Galotti* commissioned by the Koblenz Theatre. Future commissions include a new opera for the Linz Theatre.

Simons was born in The Netherlands in 1982. He studied violin with Prof. Saschko Gawriloff, composition with Daan Manneke and James MacMillan and conducting with Ed Spanjaard, Jean-Bernard Pommier and Prof. Kenneth Kiesler.

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