



JUKKA IISAKKILA, CONDUCTOR

The Finnish conductor Jukka Iisakkila versatility and broad repertoire have taken him to symphony orchestras, chamber orchestras, contemporary ensembles, rock arenas and innovative music clubs to opera houses throughout Europe.

A regular guest with many of the leading Scandinavian orchestras, conductor Jukka Iisakkila was the Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Pori Sinfonietta from 2004 to 2012. Jukka Iisakkila works regularly with the Turku Philharmonic, Oulu Symphony and Tapiola Sinfonietta in Finland and these fruitful guest conducting collaborations are ongoing. From 2010 he worked regularly as a guest conductor of the Danish Radio Chamber Orchestra and with the Nagoya Philharmonic in Japan.

Iisakkila conducts the Metropole Orchestra in Holland for contemporary and cross-over projects and their collaboration has been highly acclaimed. He also holds the position of Professor of Conducting at the Stavanger University in Norway.

Since 2003 he has been the Artistic Director of one of the most innovative and artistically rich and praised music festival in Scandinavia, the Saaksmaki Sounds -music festival. Iisakkila is founder of both festival and the Saaksmaki Festival orchestra and ensemble in residence.

Iisakkila is known for his affinity with contemporary music and cross-over styles and has conducted numerous world premieres having close links with many of today's foremost composers.

Jukka Iisakkila conducts all Finnish orchestras on a regular basis and enjoys frequent collaboration with the majority of Scandinavian orchestras. Other guest appearances for the upcoming season include orchestras and tours in

the United States, Japan, Holland, Austria and Czech.

Iisakkila has conducted opera performances throughout various Scandinavian opera houses. His operatic repertoire spans from Mozart to contemporary operas including composers like Verdi, Donizetti, Poulenc, Bartók, Berg, Zimmermann and Luigi Dallapiccola. Highly successful productions span from Don Giovanni to Berg's Wozzeck and from Zimmermann's Soldaten to music by György Ligeti and Helmut Lachenmann.

Jukka Iisakkila is the recipient of many major awards including the Royal Music Academy Award in Sweden 2006; Finnish Culture Foundation award for achievements in the field of conducting.

Jukka Iisakkila won the First Prize in the Helsingborg Nordic Conducting competition and the Third Prize in international Jorma Panula Conducting competition.

Notable cross-over productions include collaborations with jazz pianist/composer Iro Haarla, saxophonist Trygve Seim, EDM-artists Indians and Rumpistol and the ongoing fruitful and successful collaboration with composer/guitarist Steve Vai.

Jukka Iisakkila graduated from the orchestral conducting diploma class at the Royal Academy of Music, Stockholm, after studies with the world-renowned Professor Jorma Panula. Besides Professor Jorma Panula, his most important teachers have been Martyn Brabbins, Esa-Pekka Salonen (Conductor Laureate of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Principal Conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra), and Alan Gilbert (Music Director of the New York Philharmonic).

Jukka Iisakkila has fulfilled his studies in Italy and with such composers as György Kurtág and Peter Eötvös.

Jukka Iisakkila studied percussion, piano and jazz / electric guitar first at the

Tampere Conservatory of Music. He then finished his performance diplomas, Masters degree, at the Royal Danish Academy of Music and at the Royal Swedish Academy of Music. Still in his early age he also completed his studies at the University of Central Finland with a Master of Arts degree both in musicology and composition.

He has recorded for various international labels such as Sony / Legacy Recordings, ECM, Dacapo, Favoured Nations, Century Media Records, Pilfink, Apart Records, Pilfink and Eclipse Music. his recording company for solo recordings is Eclipse Music.