

London **Philharmonic** Orchestra

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES EDWARD GARDNER AS PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR FROM 2021/22 SEASON

VLADIMIR JUROWSKI TO BECOME CONDUCTOR EMERITUS

Gardner becomes first British Principal Conductor of the Orchestra since the late 1960s

Initial five-year contract will see him work with the London Philharmonic Orchestra for a minimum of 10 weeks a year

Gardner succeeds Vladimir Jurowski whose transformative time with the London Philharmonic Orchestra is recognised by him becoming Conductor Emeritus from 2021/22

The London Philharmonic Orchestra today announces the appointment of Edward Gardner as its next Principal Conductor, the first British Principal Conductor of the Orchestra since the late 1960s. Gardner will take up his position at the start of the 2021/22 season. His initial five-year contract will see him working with the Orchestra for a minimum of 10 weeks per season, including its London season as Resident Orchestra at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, on international tours and with the Orchestra's many ground-breaking Education & Community programmes.

Currently Chief Conductor of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, Gardner first conducted the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 2003 and has since returned for concerts at the Royal Festival Hall, Snape Maltings and Glyndebourne. Most recently he has conducted the Orchestra both in London and on tour in the United States. During the 2019/20 season Gardner will appear four times in London with the Orchestra and he will also open its 2020/21 season.

Much in demand as a guest-conductor, Gardner's recent seasons have included performances with the Metropolitan Opera, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala di Milano, Wiener Symphoniker and his debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where he returns in September to conduct Massenet's *Werther*.

Edward Gardner said:

"I'm thrilled to have been appointed Principal Conductor of the LPO. I worked with the Orchestra early in my career and I was quite overwhelmed by the brilliance and virtuosity of the musicians. Returning to the Orchestra recently I've felt a sense of pleasure and privilege working with this inspiring group of musicians and relished the passion and hunger the LPO brings to performance. I'm looking forward to our collaboration with huge anticipation and excitement."

The London Philharmonic Orchestra has been at the heart of music-making in London, Britain and around the world for nine decades where it has established a reputation for bold, creative and distinctive programming that continues to inspire audiences on a journey of exploration and adventure. In addition to its residencies at London's Southbank Centre and Glyndebourne, the Orchestra continues its south coast residencies in Brighton and Eastbourne, between which it gives 10 concerts each year, and has recently announced a new four-concert residency at Saffron Walden.

One of the most in-demand international orchestras in the world, the London Philharmonic Orchestra gives around 35 concerts each year overseas. It was the first Western orchestra to visit the Soviet Union (1956) and the first to tour China following the Cultural Revolution (1973).

Deeply committed to inspiring the next generation of musicians, the Orchestra last season celebrated the 30th anniversary of its Education and Community department, whose work over three decades has introduced many thousands of people of all ages to orchestral music and created opportunities for people of all backgrounds to fulfil their creative potential.

Timothy Walker, Chief Executive & Artistic Director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, said: *"It's been fascinating to watch Ed grow into a great musician from his debut with us 16 years ago. During his 10 years at English National Opera and more recently at the Bergen Philharmonic Ed has mastered a huge range of orchestral and vocal repertoire. For him to now return to the UK as our Principal Conductor is exciting for not only the LPO but also for London and the UK's cultural scene. Everyone at the Orchestra wishes to thank Vladimir Jurowski for the extraordinary contribution he has made in his more than 10 years as Principal Conductor which has been nothing short of transformational. We greatly look forward to his return visits to us as Conductor Emeritus."*

Victoria Robey OBE, Chairman of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's Board of Directors, said: *"At this exciting time in our history, the Board and I are delighted to welcome the immensely talented Ed Gardner to the LPO family where he will continue the excellent work of Maestro Vladimir Jurowski and his predecessors."*

Stewart McIlwham, President of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, said: *"Edward Gardner has been at the forefront of British music-making for many years and I am delighted that he will be leading the LPO in this exciting new chapter of the Orchestra's history."*

Gillian Moore CBE, Director of Music at Southbank Centre, said: *"I'm so pleased to welcome Edward Gardner to the Southbank Centre family. While he has been doing great things in Bergen and around the world, Ed has remained a force for good in British music, and his recent performances with the LPO have been stunning. I'm very much looking forward to deepening the relationship and working on exciting plans together."*

Gardner succeeds Vladimir Jurowski who will become Conductor Emeritus at the start of the 2021/22 season a role in which he will continue to conduct the Orchestra for four concerts a season. In over a decade with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Jurowski's creative energy and artistic rigour have been central to the Orchestra's success.

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Notes to Editors

LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

One of the finest orchestras on the international stage, the London Philharmonic Orchestra balances a long and distinguished history with its reputation as one of the UK's most forward-looking ensembles. As well as its concert performances, the Orchestra also records film soundtracks, releases CDs and downloads on its own label, and reaches thousands of people every year through activities for families, schools and local communities.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra was founded by Sir Thomas Beecham in 1932, and has since been headed by many great conductors including Sir Adrian Boult, Bernard Haitink, Sir Georg Solti, Klaus Tennstedt and Kurt Masur. In 2017 Vladimir Jurowski celebrated his tenth anniversary as the Orchestra's Principal Conductor. Edward Gardner is currently Principal Conductor Designate, and will take up the position when Jurowski's tenure concludes in September 2021.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra has performed at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall since it opened in 1951, becoming Resident Orchestra in 1992. As well as its London home, it also has flourishing residencies in Brighton, Eastbourne and Saffron Walden, and each summer plays for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, where it has been Resident Symphony Orchestra for over 50 years. The Orchestra also tours internationally, performing to sell-out audiences worldwide.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra broadcasts regularly on television and radio. It also works with the Hollywood and UK film industries, recording soundtracks for blockbusters including the Oscar-winning score for *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. In 2005 it established its own record label, which now numbers over 100 releases all available on CD and to stream or download.

In summer 2012 the London Philharmonic Orchestra performed as part of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the River Thames, and was also chosen to record all the world's national anthems for the London 2012 Olympics. In 2013 it was the winner of the RPS Music Award for Ensemble.

The London Philharmonic Orchestra's dynamic Education & Community programme provides first musical experiences to children and families; offers creative projects and professional development opportunities for schools and teachers; inspires talented teenage instrumentalists to progress their skills; and develops the next generation of professional musicians.

The Orchestra's work at the forefront of digital technology has enabled it to reach millions of people worldwide: all its recordings are available to download and stream and, as well as a YouTube channel and podcast series, the Orchestra has a lively presence on social media.

www.lpo.org.uk

facebook.com/londonphilharmonicorchestra

twitter.com/LPOrchestra

EDWARD GARDNER

Chief Conductor of the Bergen Philharmonic since October 2015, Edward Gardner has led the orchestra on multiple international tours, including performances in Berlin, Munich and Amsterdam, and at the BBC Proms and Edinburgh International Festival.

In 2019/20 Edward conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra in four concerts across the season and brings the Bergen Philharmonic to the Royal Festival Hall with their acclaimed *Peter Grimes*. He finishes the season by taking the Bergen Philharmonic on their first ever tour to China. Guest conducting highlights include performances with the San Francisco Symphony, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Montreal Symphony Orchestra as well as returns to Covent Garden for *Werther* and Metropolitan Opera for *Le Damnation de Faust*.

Edward also continues his longstanding collaborations with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, where he was Principal Guest Conductor from 2010-16, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra whom he has conducted at both the First and Last Night of the BBC Proms.

In demand as a guest-conductor, recent seasons have seen Edward conduct the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig,

Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala di Milano, Wiener Symphoniker and the Philharmonia, and a new production of *Káťa Kabanová* at the Royal Opera House.

Music Director of English National Opera for ten years (2006-15), Edward has an ongoing relationship with New York's Metropolitan Opera where he has conducted productions of *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni*, *Der Rosenkavalier* and *Werther*. Elsewhere, he has conducted at La Scala, Chicago Lyric Opera, Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Opéra National de Paris.

A passionate supporter of young talent, Edward founded the Hallé Youth Orchestra in 2002 and regularly conducts the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. He has a close relationship with The Juilliard School of Music, and with the Royal Academy of Music who appointed him its inaugural Sir Charles Mackerras Conducting Chair in 2014.

An exclusive Chandos recording artist, Edward's projects with the Bergen Philharmonic have included music by Sibelius, Grieg, Janáček, Bartók and Schoenberg. With the BBC Symphony he has focused on Elgar and Walton and released acclaimed discs of Lutosławski and Szymanowski. He recently released the complete set of Mendelssohn symphonies and overtures with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

His many accolades include being named Royal Philharmonic Society Award Conductor of the Year (2008), an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera (2009) and receiving an OBE for Services to Music in the Queen's Birthday Honours (2012).

www.askonasholt.com/artists/edward-gardner/

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a 17-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).

www.southbankcentre.co.uk