

MATTHEW HALLS Conductor



The word "versatile" is often applied to musicians; in the case of the British conductor Matthew Halls, it is particularly well deserved. With his probing and vibrant interpretations of music of all periods, he is known for his dynamic and intelligent work with major symphony orchestras, choirs and opera companies.

Halls is regularly welcomed to orchestras across Europe with recent debuts including with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, NDR Radiophilharmonie, and the Warsaw Philharmonic. This season sees him working for the first time with MDR Leipzig Symphony and Stavanger Symphony Orchestras, and returning to Bremer Philharmoniker. Recent highlights include performances with Concentus Musicus Wien, Salzburg Mozarteumorchester, the Tonkünstler Orchestra NÖ, and a Beethoven piano concerto cycle with Paul Lewis and the

Iceland Symphony Orchestra. His commitment to the music of today is exemplified by his initiating the commission, and conducting the world premiere, of Sir James MacMillan's *A European Requiem*.

Increasingly in demand by North American orchestras Halls has received invitations from the Dallas Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony and the Seattle and Toronto Symphony Orchestras. His North American appearances this season include return visits to the Cleveland, Dallas, Indianapolis and Saint Louis Symphony Orchestras and his debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Further afield, Halls has appeared in Australia with the Adelaide, Melbourne, Tasmanian and West Australian Symphony Orchestras; in Russia with Musica Viva Moscow; and in Hong Kong where he returns this season.

In the opera house, Halls has worked with companies including the Bayerische Staatsoper, Central City Opera Colorado, Handelfestspiele Halle, Salzburg Landestheater and the Netherlands Opera in repertoire such as Britten's *Peter Grimes* and Bellini's *Norma*. At the Aalto-Musiktheater Essen Halls has led performances of Handel's *Ariodante* and Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*.

Halls is represented on disc with Handel's *Parnasso in Festa*, winner of the Stanley Sadie Handel Recording Prize, released on the Hyperion label. His recordings on Linn Records are highlighted by a set of four Bach Harpsichord Concertos conducted from the keyboard, and award-winning discs of Purcell's Sonatas in Three and Four Parts.

Matthew Halls was educated at Oxford University and subsequently taught at the university for five years. Noted for his commitment to education he led the launch of Oregon's Berwick Academy in 2015 and regularly teaches at courses and summer schools.

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