

VILLE MATVEJEFF Conductor

Chief Conductor: Jyväskylä Sinfonia

Artistic Director: Turku Music Festival

Artistic Director Designate: Savonlinna Opera Festival

Principal Guest Conductor: Croatian National Theatre Ivan Zajc, Rijeka



Ville Matvejeff has established himself as an exceptionally wide-ranging musician enjoying success as conductor, composer and pianist.

In January 2014 he assumed the position of Chief Conductor of Jyväskylä Sinfonia and took up his appointment as Artistic Director of the Turku Music Festival in September 2015. Alongside his regular work with the Croatian National Theatre Ivan Zajc, Rijeka, this season sees Matvejeff re-invited to the Duisburg and Tampere Philharmonic Orchestras and the Tapiola Sinfonietta.

He also makes his debut with the RTV Slovenia Symphony Orchestra and the

Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Choir, conducting repertoire from Sibelius and Ravel, to Hindemith, Aho and Rautavaara. Matvejeff has developed a broad repertoire extending from the classical through to the 20th century and contemporary; in 2016 he led the Tampere Philharmonic for the Tampere Biennale 30th anniversary in an all-Finnish programme featuring two world premieres. A bass-baritone with solo performances on both concert and opera stages to his credit, he is equally conversant with choral repertoire.

Matvejeff conducts a diversity of opera repertoire ranging from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Aribert Reimann's *Lear* to contemporary productions such as Kimmo Hakola's *Akseli* with Jorma Hynninen in the title role, and Mikko Heiniö's *Eerik XIV*. This season started with concert performances of *Parsifal* with a cast featuring Klaus Florian Vogt and Karita Mattila at the Turku Music Festival and a run of *Hansel and Gretel* at Malmö Opera, whilst at the Croatian National Theatre Ivan Zajc he conducts productions including *La Bohème*, *Falstaff*, and *Otello*. Recent opera highlights include the world premiere of Aulis Sallinen's *Castle in the Water* at the Savonlinna Opera Festival, where he has recently been appointed Artistic Director with effect from September 2019, and performances in Rijeka of *Werther* and *Faust*, which was also recorded for Decca. Matvejeff has previously held positions at the Malmö Opera and the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm, as well as working as assistant with conductors such as Esa-Pekka Salonen and Leif Segerstam.

A musical polymath, Matvejeff trained at the Sibelius Academy and Espoo Music Institute and is also a pianist and composer. He made his concert debut as pianist at the age of 18 with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra under conductor Susanna Mälkki and has since toured the world in a recital partnership with soprano Karita Mattila. Last season saw the duo on a European tour with performances at the Vienna State Opera, London's Wigmore Hall and the Zürich Opera House amongst others. As a composer, Matvejeff has received commissions from the Finnish Chamber Orchestra and the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, for whom he wrote his Violin Concerto to celebrate the inauguration of the Helsinki Music Centre in September 2011. His passion for the human voice has led him to write a substantial amount of choral music, while recordings of his orchestral works *Ad Astra* and *Cello Concerto Crossroads* have been released on the Alba label.

This biography is valid for use until August 2018. We update our biographies regularly and ask that they are not altered without permission. For updated versions, please e-mail: ed.williams@hazardchase.co.uk

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