

## KARL-HEINZ STEFFENS Conductor



Karl-Heinz Steffens is recognised as a conductor of distinction in both operatic and symphonic worlds and is in great demand as a guest.

Recent seasons have seen him work with ensembles such as the Bavarian Radio Symphony, Berlin Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Lyon National, Munich Philharmonic, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Salzburg Mozarteum and Zurich Tonhalle Orchestras and frequently with the Radio Symphony Orchestras of Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Hannover, Leipzig and Stuttgart. This season he returns to Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, Filharmonica Teatro Regio Torino and continues his appearances in Scandinavia with the Helsinki Philharmonic and a Brahms symphony cycle with Norrköping Symphony Orchestra. He also makes his North American debut with the Toronto Symphony.

In the UK, Steffens returns to the Hallé, City of Birmingham Symphony and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestras and makes his debut with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra opening the Lammermuir festival with Bruckner's *Symphony No. 7*. Last season he concluded his cycle of Brahms works with the Philharmonia Orchestra conducting the *Requiem* and appearing as soloist in the composer's *Clarinet Quintet*.

Under his leadership as Music Director of the Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, the orchestra was honoured with many accolades; they received the ECHO award for Best Orchestra in 2015 for their recording of works by B.A. Zimmermann and in 2016/17 were nominated prizewinners of the Best Concert Programme of the Season by the Deutsche Musikverlegerverband, the German Music Publishers' Association. Most recently their recording of works by George Antheil, an addition to the Modern Times series, was designated Concert Recording of the Year by the new Opus Klassik awards.

Equally at home in the opera house, Steffens gave the Norwegian premiere of *Pelléas and Mélisande* at the Norwegian National Opera where he has also conducted productions of *Così fan Tutte*, *Fidelio* and Calixto Bieito's *Tosca*. He has appeared several times at the Teatro alla Scala leading performances of *Così fan Tutte*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Götterdämmerung*, and recently made his Zürich Opera debut with *Così fan tutte*. He is regularly invited to the Berlin Staatsoper Unter den Linden, where this season he conducts performances of *Fidelio*.

Prior to his conducting career, Steffens was a highly respected solo clarinetist who also held several orchestral positions culminating in the successive posts of Principal Clarinet with the Bavarian Radio and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras.

This biography is valid for use until February 2019. 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](mailto:ed.williams@hazardchase.co.uk)