

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 including recent debuts with the MDR Leipzig Symphony, NDR Radiophilharmonie and Stavanger Symphony Orchestras. This season sees him returning to the Iceland Symphony, Residentie Orkest and Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestras and making debuts with the Finnish Radio Orchestra and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. His commitment to the music of today is exemplified by him initiating the commission, and conducting the world premiere, of Sir James MacMillan's *A European Requiem*.

Increasingly in demand by North American orchestras, his appearances there this season include return visits to the Seattle Symphony and Kansas City Symphony, while last season he made his debut with the Chicago Symphony and returned to the Cleveland, Dallas, Indianapolis, St. Louis and Toronto Symphony Orchestras. 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 returned last 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 directed from the keyboard, and award-winning discs of Purcell's Sonatas in Three and Four Parts.

Halls was educated at Oxford University and subsequently taught there 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.

This biography is valid for use until February 2020. We update our biographies regularly and ask that they are not altered without permission. For updated versions, please e-mail: nickie.osborne@hazardchase.co.uk