

Alan Gilbert

With the start of the 2019/2020 season, Alan Gilbert took up his position as Principal Conductor of the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra. The American enjoys an outstanding reputation in the international music world as a passionate interpreter of a broad repertoire ranging from the Baroque period to contemporary music and as an artist with a tremendous awareness of social responsibility. He has long been associated with the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra as he was the ensemble's Principal Guest Conductor from 2004 to 2015. After a brilliant four-week inaugural festival titled “#KLINGTnachGILBERT” (“sounds like Gilbert”) with works by Haydn, Beethoven, Brahms, Shostakovich and Lindberg as well as world premieres by Unsuk Chin and Enno Poppe, in his first season as the new head of the orchestra he conducted Verdi's Requiem and Bruckner's Seventh Symphony, which was also released as a commercial recording. During the Covid-19 lockdown, Gilbert conducted a large number of video-livestream and radio concerts, including a special concert celebrating the 75th anniversary of the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra. He also hosted a series of livestreamed interviews with his fellow conductors that received hundreds of thousands of views.

2017 saw the end of Gilbert's eight-year tenure as Music Director of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, where the native New Yorker succeeded in reestablishing the orchestra's reputation and underlining its leading role in the cultural landscape of the United States. Gilbert is also Conductor Laureate of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, where he was Music Director for eight years; principal guest conductor of Japan's Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony; and Music Director Designate of the Royal Swedish Opera from spring 2021.

As an internationally sought-after guest conductor, Gilbert regularly returns to orchestras like the Berlin Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Symphony, the Boston Symphony and the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras, the Staatskapelle Dresden and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra as well as the Orchestre de Paris and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. He has led opera productions at La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera of New York, Los Angeles Opera, Royal Opera of Stockholm, at the Zurich Opera House and at the Santa Fe Opera, where he became the company's first Music Director in 2003.

A trained violinist, Gilbert also maintains a close artistic partnership with such performers as Frank Peter Zimmermann, Lisa Batiashvili, Leonidas Kavakos, Yo-Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax and Renée Fleming and with composers such as John Adams, Magnus Lindberg and Esa-Pekka Salonen. His discography includes the multi-volume “Nielsen Project” and a Grammy-winning DVD of John Adams's “Doctor Atomic,” captured live at the Metropolitan Opera. The winner of numerous awards and prestigious prizes, Gilbert has also served as Director of Conducting and Orchestral Studies at the Juilliard School in New York.

February 2021