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David Porcelijn Conductor

"It would be difficult to improve the account of the Mozart Requiem where, under David Porcelijn's secure leadership, soloists, choir and orchestra performed as if their lives depended on it. Pathos and fear, solace and hope, all stand side by side: taut, urgent, cataclysmic in places, the performance never lost sight of eternity."

The Sydney Morning Herald

"... an exhilarating performance of Beethoven's Symphony No 5. Right from the most famous opening bar in all music, Porcelijn swapped the elegant restraint of the Prokofiev for a bold, energised but always beautifully controlled account, and the players responded in kind, culminating in a thrilling, pulsating finale."

The Herald, Glasgow

"The BBCSO conducted by David Porcelijn (one of the heroes of the weekend) have a blistering performance of Varèse's *Amérique*, his chromium-plated, testosterone-laden tribute to New York – and Carl Ruggles' *Sun Treader* was just as elemental."

Sunday Telegraph, London

David Porcelijn is one of the most outstanding Dutch musicians of his generation. After several years of conducting outside Europe he has now returned to work with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, SWR Sinfonieorchester Baden Baden und Freiburg, Orquesta Filarmónica de Gran Canaria, Radio-Philharmonie Hannover des NDR in Germany, the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra amongst many others. On a regular base he appears with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and in 2004 he did a concert tour with the London Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2004 he has made his debut with the Philharmonia Orchestra in their series "*Music of Today*".

Beyond his excellent work in the core repertoire and an abiding interest in new music, he is a regular guest conductor of the London Sinfonietta. His work now sees him conducting in three continents with such major cultural organisations as Opera Australia, the Prague Spring Festival and the Orquesta Filarmónica de la Ciudad de México. As most highly regarded orchestral trainer, he has held the positions of Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Music Director and Conductor of the Netherlands Dance Theatre and as a regular guest conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra. He has toured China with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra as well as North and South America with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. Re-invitations have seen him returning to Freiburg, Bergen, Bratislava, Belgrade, Gran Canaria, Hannover, London, Belfast, Paris, Mexico and Sydney.

David Porcelijn studied Flute, Composition and Conducting at the Royal Conservatoire of Music in den Haag. He also studied the Baroque Flute, specialising in authentic performance practice of the baroque and classical periods, which has informed his interpretations as a conductor in the repertoire since then. Winning a scholarship to study conducting and composition in Genève enabled David Porcelijn's reputation to expand outside the Netherlands and begin building his strong international reputation as a conductor of classical, romantic and contemporary music. He is an excellent orchestra builder and programmer.

David Porcelijn has been professor in conducting at the Utrecht- Amsterdam and at The Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

David Porcelijn has a broad operatic repertoire. In 1992 he was awarded the prize as Best Opera Conductor at the Munich Biennial for a production with Netherlands Opera. In 1994 he made his British operatic debut conducting Verdi's *Oberto* at Opera North. He made his Australian operatic debut in 1991 conducting *Rigoletto* for the State Opera of South Australia, where he has since conducted *Macbeth*, *La Traviata* and John Adams' *Nixon in China* and, with Opera Queensland, *Madama Butterfly*. His work for Opera Australia at Sydney Opera House has included *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Rigoletto*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and, in co-operation with Opera Australia, he also conducted a semi-staged version of Rossini's *La Cenerentola* in Tasmania.

In more recent years David Porcelijn's recordings have been principally made for ABC Classics in Australia. Amongst these is his complete cycle of Beethoven Symphonies with the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Messiaen's *Éclairs sur l'Au-délà* with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, which won the 1994 ABC Classic FM Australian Recording of the Year Award. Other records with the Adelaide and Tasmanian symphony orchestras have included CDs of music by the Australian composers Richard Meale, Peter Sculthorpe, whose *Sun Music I - IV* won

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the 1997 ARIA award for Best Australian Classical Recording, Nigel Westlake, Mathew Hindson, Gordon Kerry and Kurt Schwertsik. Other CDs for ABC Classics include Schubert *Lieder*, orchestrated by Brahms, Reger, Offenbach and Liszt, Overtures by Auber, the first in a series of Showpieces for Piano and Orchestra with Ian Munro as soloist and Harp Concertos played by Alice Giles.

For EMERGO he has recorded music by the Dutch composers such as Tristan Keuris, with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus, and Hans Kox. Most recently he has recorded the symphonies of Christian Sinding with the Radio-Philharmonie Hannover des NDR for cpo. Since 2005, David Porcelijn has been asked to record for the German record company cpo on a regular contract basis. For cpo, he recently started a project to record all the symphonic works of the Dutch composers Julius Röntgen (1855-1932), Henk Badings (1907-1987) and Jan van Gilse (1881-1944). This project will be in co-operation with various German, Swedish and Dutch orchestras and will result in ca.20 CDs. With the Janacek Philharmonic Orchestra in the Czech Republic, he will record the music of Jeff Hamburg, Isidora Zebeljan, Jacqueline Fontyn, Martin Smolka, for Future Classics and Cybelle Records.

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