



Oslo Overseas

Berlin, Vienna and Paris to host the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra's first European tour with Chief Conductor Designate Vasily Petrenko (27-30 November 2011)

Audiences in Berlin (Philharmonie, 27 November), Vienna (Konzerthaus, 28 November) and Paris (Salle Pleyel, 30 November) can experience a compelling new partnership this autumn when the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra makes its debut tour under Chief Conductor Designate, Vasily Petrenko. Their programme opens with *Act* for large orchestra by Oslo-born composer Rolf Wallin, continues with Sibelius' Violin Concert with Joshua Bell as soloist and concludes with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony. The tour, prefaced by concerts in Oslo, marks a significant development in the esteemed Norwegian orchestra's evolving relationship with Petrenko. The 34-year-old Russian conductor's tour repertoire choices also reflect key artistic priorities of his Oslo Philharmonic programming plans.

"The Oslo Philharmonic has a great tradition of playing Tchaikovsky, which became part of the orchestra's identity under Mariss Jansons," comments Vasily Petrenko. "And of course the work of Sibelius is also very close to their hearts." Russian and Scandinavian music, he adds, will be central to his first season as Chief Conductor in 2013/14. "This November's tour allows us to explore exciting repertoire, including Rolf Wallin's recent *Act*, and develop our relationship together. The Oslo Philharmonic is an international force, quite simply an outstanding orchestra, which is why it is so exciting for me to be joining them on tour to these major European capital cities."

Over the past three decades, international touring has played a leading role in developing the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra's qualities and securing its place among the front rank of European orchestras. Odd Gullberg, Chief Executive Officer of the Oslo Philharmonic, stresses the value of tours to the orchestra's artistic wellbeing. Its forthcoming sojourn with Vasily Petrenko, he observes, follows recent critically acclaimed visits to London, Berlin, Vienna, Paris and Cologne with the Oslo Philharmonic's incumbent Chief Conductor, Jukka-Pekka Saraste.

"We understand the importance of taking our work to these major centres of music-making and of being heard beyond our home city," notes Gullberg. "The Oslo Philharmonic is in excellent form thanks to its great work at home and overseas under Jukka-Pekka Saraste. Now we have the chance to offer international audiences a flavour of the orchestra's music making with our Chief Conductor Designate. This is a very good way for us to remind the public in three great capital cities about the Oslo Philharmonic's outstanding present qualities under Jukka-Pekka and point to our bright future under Vasily Petrenko."

Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra
European tour dates

Sunday 27 November 2011, 16:00 – Philharmonie, Berlin
Monday 28 November 2011, 19:30 – Konzerthaus, Vienna
Wednesday 30 November 2011, 20:00 - Salle Pleyel, Paris

Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra
Vasily Petrenko *conductor*
Joshua Bell *violin*

Rolf Wallin: *Act* for large orchestra (2004)
Sibelius: Violin Concerto
Tchaikovsky: Symphony No.4

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Notes for Editors:

Vasily Petrenko

Born in St Petersburg in July 1976 and educated at the St Petersburg Capella Boys Music School and St Petersburg Conservatoire, Vasily Petrenko served as Resident Conductor at the St Petersburg State Opera and Ballet Theatre (1994-7) and Chief Conductor of the State Academy Orchestra of St Petersburg (2004-7). He is currently Chief Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra (his contract extended until 2015) and Principal Conductor of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

In recent seasons Petrenko has made debut performances with the London Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, the Accademia di Santa Cecilia, the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and the Finnish Radio Symphony, the Orchestre National de France, the Philharmonia, the NHK Symphony Tokyo, the Budapest Festival and Russian National Orchestras, and has toured with the European Union Youth Orchestra. In the United States he has made successful debuts with many top level orchestras, the Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Minnesota, Philadelphia and St Louis Symphony Orchestras among them. His schedule includes forthcoming debuts with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Sydney Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra Washington, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and with the Vienna Symphoniker.

In 2007 Vasily Petrenko was named Young Artist of the Year at the annual Gramophone Awards, and in 2009 he was awarded honorary doctorates by the University of Liverpool and Liverpool Hope University, in recognition of the immense impact he has had on the city's cultural scene.

Vasily Petrenko is represented for worldwide general management by IMG Artists (London).

Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra

The Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra can trace its roots back to the time of Edvard Grieg and Johan Svendsen. It was established under its present name in 1919. The orchestra annually presents 60 to 70 concerts at its home venue, Oslo Concert Hall, most of which are broadcast by Norwegian National Radio. Its concert programme has secured a high international profile, widely recognised for the breadth of its repertory and the quality of its music-making. Thanks to its international reputation, the orchestra attracts many distinguished conductors and soloists.

Under Mariss Jansons, Music Director from 1979 to 2002, the orchestra achieved great international fame and critical acclaim. Since 1982 the Oslo Philharmonic's touring activities has regularly taken the orchestra to Europe's leading venues, including a residency at Vienna's Musikverein and visits to the BBC Proms and the Edinburgh, Lucerne and Salzburg international festivals. The orchestra has also appeared at significant venues in North and South America and in East Asia.

Maestro Jansons was succeeded by André Previn, and in 2006 the orchestra signed a five-year contract with Jukka-Pekka Saraste as Music Director. In 2009, Maestro Saraste's contract was extended until 2013. The Oslo Philharmonic has performed highly successful overseas concerts with Jukka-Pekka Saraste, for example, at the BBC Proms and Barbican Hall in London, the Vienna Musikverein, the Berlin and Cologne Philharmonies, and the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, together with appearances at the Rheingau, Grafenegg and Baltic festivals and venues in Italy, Switzerland and the Benelux countries.

As a recording orchestra the Oslo Philharmonic attained global fame under Mariss Jansons in the 1980s, initially with their cycle of Tchaikovsky's symphonies for the Chandos label. In 1986 they signed what was then the most extensive orchestra recording contract in EMI's history, resulting in over 20 acclaimed releases during the next decade. The Oslo Philharmonic's discography presently includes over 70 titles spanning a strikingly wide range of music. Recent releases include a Brahms symphony cycle and Mahler's first, sixth, seventh and ninth symphonies for Simax, recordings with Hillary Hahn, Frank Peter Zimmermann, Daniel Müller-Schott and Christian Lindberg, and the album *Norwegian Heartland*, a survey of Norwegian romantic compositions by Grieg, Halvorsen, Svendsen, Saeverud and Tveitt (Simax). In 2008 the orchestra launched its first DVD, presenting the final version of Sibelius' Fifth Symphony and sequences from the work's 'forbidden' original 1915 score, with Jukka-Pekka Saraste as conductor and narrator. This was followed in spring 2010 by another DVD and Blu-ray release of Sibelius' Symphony No. 1, again conducted by Maestro Saraste.