

# Tobias Ringborg

## Conductor

Tobias Ringborg is one of the most prolific musical talents to emerge from Sweden in later years. He is equally at home on the concert podium as a conductor and violinist, as well as in the opera house. His career started in 1994 when he, as a violinist, won the prestigious Swedish Soloist Prize. The same year he graduated with the highest honours from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, and went on to study at the Juilliard School in New York, graduating in 1996.

As a violinist Tobias Ringborg has appeared with every Swedish orchestra and has collaborated with conductors such as Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Neeme Järvi, Okko Kamu, Sakari Oramo, and Daniel Harding. He is an active champion of Swedish music, and his discography includes about twenty CD:s with chamber music and violin concertos, mostly by Swedish composers. In between operatic and orchestra engagements, Tobias Ringborg maintains an active career as a chamber musician, often performing with his longtime collaborator, pianist Anders Kilstrom, with whom he recorded the Brahms violin sonatas in 2005.

He plays a Gagliano violin, on loan from the Järnåker foundation of the Royal Academy of Music.

In 2000, Tobias Ringborg decided to expand his musical career and won an important conducting competition in Helsingborg, which led to invitations from all Swedish orchestras. His lifelong passion for opera led to his operatic debut at the Stockholm Folkoperan in 2001, with Verdi's *La Traviata*. In 2002 he began a two year association with the Malmö Opera, leading productions of a. o. Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* and Verdi's *Otello*.

In 2001 he made his debut at the Stockholm Royal Opera with Puccini's *La Bohème*, and since then he has maintained a strong connection to that company, leading performances of a.o. Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* and *Tosca*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Donizetti's *L'elisir d'Amore*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and *Die Zauberflöte*, Verdi's *Don Carlo* and Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*.

Specializing in the Italian, French and Mozart repertoire, operatic activities of recent seasons include Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* and Puccini's *Turandot* (televised in Sweden in 2005) at Norrlandsoperan in Umeå, Mozart's *Così fan tutte* (directed by Peter Konwitschny) at Värmlandsoperan in Karlstad, Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Norwegian Opera in Oslo, Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* in Malmö, and Gounod's *Faust* and Mozart's *Idomeneo* at the Danish National Opera. In 2008 he conducted *La Traviata* for his German debut at Oper Leipzig, and in 2009 *Così fan tutte* for his British operatic debut at Scottish Opera, in an acclaimed production by David McVicar. In 2010, he made his debut at Opera North conducting *La Bohème*, and will return in 2012 for *Don Giovanni*.

The symphonic repertoire he has explored with most major Swedish and Danish orchestras (such as the Stockholm Royal Philharmonic, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the orchestras of Gothenburg, Malmö, Norrköping, Aarhus and Odense and the Copenhagen Philharmonic). He maintains a strong connection to the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, to which he returns every season. In 2005, he made his London debut with the English Chamber Orchestra at Barbican, both as conductor and soloist.

Last season included his returns to Stockholm Royal Opera and Scottish Opera (with Verdi's *Rigoletto*), *L'elisir d'amore* at Dalhalla, concerts with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic and the orchestras of Aarhus, Norrköping (Orff's *Carmina burana*), Malmö, Helsingborg and the Royal Danish Academy of Music. Ringborg also conducts the world premiere recording of the 1849

belcanto masterpiece *Cristina, Regina di Svezia*, by Italian/Swedish composer Jacopo Foroni, with the forces of Gothenburg Opera (released by the label Sterling in December 2010).

The current season (2011-12) includes a.o. Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* at the Norwegian Opera, *Don Giovanni* at the Danish National Opera and Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* at Malmö Opera. In December 2011 he will conduct the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic for the Nobel Prize Ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall, and in April 2012 he will lead the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra's 100th Anniversary Concert (Beethoven's Symphony No 9).

In 2010 Tobias Ringborg was awarded the Herbert Blomstedt Prize by the Royal Swedish Academy of Music, and in May of 2011 he was elected a member of the same Academy (founded in 1771 by King Gustavus III).

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