Stefan Asbury

Conductor

A regular guest with leading orchestras worldwide, Stefan Asbury’s 2023/24 season has included concerts with Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Athens State Orchestra and Gewandhausorchester Leipzig as well as return engagements to Ensemble Modern, Szczecin Filharmonia and Pacific Philharmonia Tokyo, and continues as he returns to NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestrer.

Recent seasons have seen Asbury working with orchestras throughout the world, including National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, Copenhagen Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestras, Seattle and Montreal Symphony Orchestras, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Norrköping Symfoniorkester, Auckland Philharmonia and China National

Symphony Orchestra.

Renowned for his critically acclaimed interpretations of contemporary music, Asbury maintains not only strong relationships with orchestras but also with many living composers including Steve Reich, Wolfgang Rihm, Unsuk Chin and Mark-Anthony Turnage. He conducted the world and US premieres of Sir Harrison Birtwistle’s Piano Concerto with Pierre-Laurent Aimard and

Sinfonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, and Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Following Sir Harrison’s passing, Asbury conducted a performance, in memoriam, of Earth Dances with HR Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra in January 2023. As a recording artist, Asbury’s album with works by Jonathan Harvey with Ensemble Intercontemporain was awarded a Monde de la Musique CHOC award, and his complete cycle of Gerard Grisey’s *Les Espaces Acoustiques* with WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln won a Deutschen Schallplattenkritik award.

In 2019, Asbury conducted the MDR-Sinfonieorchestra in the Beethovenfest in Bonn. Later that year, he also conducted Orquesta Sinfonica de Bilbao as a part of the local Musika Músika Festival.

Asbury has also served as the Chief Conductor of Noord Nederland Orkest, Chief Guest

Conductor for the Tapiola Sinfonietta (Finland) and was the founder and Music Director of the Remix Ensemble (Portugal).

Opera and musical theatre forms an important part of his musical life and he has travelled widely, with highlights including John Adams’ *A Flowering Tree* for the Perth International Arts

Festival, a performance which won the ‘Best Symphony Orchestra Concert’ Helpmann Award;

Gershwin’s *Porgy and Bess* at the Spoleto Festival USA; Wolfgang Rihm’s *Jakob Lenz* for the

Wiener Festwochen; Britten’s *Owen Wingrave* with Tapiola Sinfonietta, and Bartók *Bluebeard's Castle* in Poland. Asbury conducted a production of *A Quiet Place* as part of the centenary celebrations of Leonard Bernstein at Tanglewood. For dance projects, he has collaborated with Copenhagen Phil and the Danish Dance Theatre on a new production of Stravinsky’s *The Firebird*, the Mark Morris Dance Group in productions of Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet*, and Virgil Thomson’s *Four Saints* in Three Acts with performances at the Lincoln Center in New York, London’s Barbican, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, amongst other venues.

Since 1995, Asbury has served on the faculty of the Tanglewood Music Center and has been

Head of Conducting at the Tanglewood Music Center for many years. In addition to his regular summer teaching, he has given masterclasses at the Hochschule der Künste in Zürich, Ensemble Modern International Academy, and Venice and Geneva Conservatoires.