

CHRISTOPH KÖNIG

- *Principal Conductor, Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música*
- *Principal Conductor & Music Director, Solistes Européens, Luxembourg*

Christoph König's fiery enthusiasm made for an eye-opening performance of Beethoven's Symphony No 3, Eroica.... Above all, he reinvigorated the symphony and made it sound fresh and alive.

The Herald

Christoph König is a conductor of deep intelligence and musicality. His conducting is marked by an energetic and serious approach to musical collaboration and a commitment to thoughtful and stimulating programming. He currently holds positions as **Principal Conductor** of the **Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música** (2009-14) and **Music Director** of the **Solistes Européens Luxembourg**. In Porto he is currently conducting a Mahler cycle, which included a performance of Symphony No 1 at the Vienna Konzerthaus last season. Following Vienna, his tours with the orchestra include Brazil (July 2011) and northern Europe (October 2011).

König is in demand as a guest conductor. His recent performances have included engagements with the Orchestre de Paris, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Norwegian Radio Orchestra Oslo, Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg, Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, Real Filharmoniá de Galicia, Radio Orchestra (RTVE) in Madrid, Orquesta y Coro de la Comunidad de Madrid, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra whom he led on a highly successful tour of China (May 2008). His US debut last season with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (Mahler Symphony No 5) resulted in an immediate re-invitation and this season he will also conduct the Pittsburgh Symphony, Houston Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Vancouver Symphony and the Colorado Symphony Orchestras. Other future engagements include return visits to the Orchestre de Paris, the Toronto and Houston Symphony, and performances with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra London, the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn and the Oregon and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras, amongst others. He made his debut with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra in August 2011.

Christoph's reputation as an opera conductor rose swiftly after stepping in at short notice to successfully direct the Zürich Opera's 2003 production of Jonathan Miller's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. He has also led Zurich Opera in productions of *Die Zauberflöte* and *Il Turco in Italia* with Cecilia Bartoli and Ruggero Raimondi. Other operatic productions include *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* at the Teatro Real in Madrid, *Don Giovanni* at the Staatsoper in Stuttgart and *Die Zauberflöte* and *Rigoletto* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

CD recordings include works by Gösta Nystroem (BIS), Schoenberg and Prokofiev (*Romeo & Juliet*), Saariaho and Sibelius (Symphony No 7) with the Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música (Ao Vivo), Melcer with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (Hyperion), Beethoven Symphonies with the Malmo Symphony Orchestra (DB Productions) and Prokofiev and Mozart with the Solistes Européens, Luxembourg (SEL Classics). His recording with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra of Brahms' First Piano Concerto was featured on the front cover of BBC Music Magazine in September 2009.

König was born in Dresden, where he sang in the celebrated Dresdner Kreuzchor. He studied conducting, piano and singing at the Dresdner Musikhochschule. His early work as a conductor took him to masterclasses given by, amongst others, Sergiu Celibidache, and Sir Colin Davis by whom he was invited to work as assistant conductor for both concerts and opera productions with the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden. He began his professional career as Erster Kapellmeister in Wuppertal/Gelsenkirchen.

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