

マイケル・フランシス

Michael Francis (Conductor)

英国王立音楽院修了。2003年からロンドン交響楽団のコントラバス奏者として活動。2007年、本番12時間前に急病で降板したゲルギエフの代役として、ロンドン響でグバイドゥーリナの作品を指揮して指揮者の才能を現した。

直後の同響ルクセンブルグ公演では本番2時間前に、ジョン・アダムスの代役に抜擢される。2009年にはプレヴィンの代役として、シュトゥットガルト放送響の4回のコンサートに登場、グバイドゥーリナのヴァイオリン協奏曲「今この時の中で」(独奏：ムター)のほか、プレヴィンとヒンデミットの作品を指揮。大成功を収めて、同オーケストラから再招聘を受けた。2010年1月にはフランス国立放送フィルにもデビューするなど、急速にその活動を広げている。

2010年11月には、リームの新作「Lichtes Spiel」の初演をムターおよびニューヨーク・フィルと共に行い、この曲を2012年春にヨーロッパ各地で指揮する予定。また現在、女流ピアニストのリシツァとロンドン響によるラフマニノフのピアノ協奏曲の全曲録音に取り組んでいる。

ロンドン響がフランシスの指揮の才能を見出したのは、2006年のリトアニア・ツアーの時。急遽ショスタコーヴィチの交響曲第4番のリハーサルを任されると、その見事な指揮ぶりにロンドン響は彼の才能を認め、以降の放送・録音・教育プログラムなどでフランシスを起用するようになった。

近年はヨーロッパと北米を中心に活躍し、シアトル響、ヒューストン響、オレゴン響、オランダフィル、マリインスキー歌劇場管などを指揮。ハーディングからスウェーデン放送響、ティルソン・トーマスからニュー・ワールド響の指揮台に招かれるなど、飛ぶ鳥を落とす勢いでキャリアを重ねている新星である。

スウェーデンのノールショッピング交響楽団とは、わずか1回の客演でポストのオファーを受け、アラン・ブリバエフの後任として2012年シーズンより首席指揮者に就任することが決まった。

ノールショッピング交響楽団 首席指揮者 (2012年～)

*プロフィールの一部を使用する場合、日数が経過している場合は、ジャパン・アーツの校正チェックをお受け頂きますようお願い申し上げます。

Michael FRANCIS (Conductor)

The rising, young British conductor, Michael Francis, is receiving conducting engagements and accolades around the world. Following a fall 2010 debut concert with the San Francisco Symphony, Mr. Francis was immediately given a two year invitation to conduct the ten classical concerts of the orchestra's annual summer concert series. The 2010-11 season also held successful debuts with the New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Munchner Symphoniker, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and the Oregon Symphony Orchestra. This series of successes has catapulted Michael Francis far beyond the amazing 'step-in' engagements with the London Symphony when he replaced Valery Gergiev and John Adams.

In October 2010, Michael appeared with the Norrkoping Symfoniorkester in Sweden, as well as made his debut with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. As a result of his success in Sweden, Michael Francis was recently appointed Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Norrkoping Symphony Orchestra (Sweden) for a three year term to begin in the 2012/13 season. A major highlight of the 2010/11 season saw Mr. Francis make his debut with the New York Philharmonic for the world premiere of Wolfgang Rihm's newest piece for violin and orchestra, *Lichtes Spiel*, with Anne-Sophie Mutter. True to form, Michael Francis was welcomed by the Oregon Symphony Orchestra for a last minute engagement, and showcased his expert skills to both the public and the orchestra members alike, resulting in an immediate re-engagement with Oregon Symphony less than one month later. Mr. Francis also conducted the Orchestre de Pau in March 2011, and spent summer 2011 and New Year's Eve with the San Francisco Symphony. He has been invited back for the summer of 2012 to conduct nine more concerts in their summer festival. He also made his Houston Symphony debut in June 2011. In spring 2012, Michael will join forces with Ms. Mutter once again for a European tour, performing Sebastian Currier's *Violin Concerto* with the RSO Stuttgart. He will also return to Asia with Mrs. Mutter in 2012 for concerts in Taiwan and Hong Kong, and will return to the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra shortly thereafter.

Mr. Francis will make his debut with the Cincinnati Symphony in 2012, as well as with Vancouver and Toronto Symphonies, and will return to both Oregon and Seattle Symphonies.

In January 2009, Michael was asked to replace André Previn to conduct four concerts with Anne-Sophie Mutter and Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart. The programs included Gubaidulina's *Violin Concerto*, *In Tempus Praesens*; Previn's *Double Concerto* for Violin and Double Bass with Roman Patkoló; and Hindemith's *Mathis der Maler*. All four concerts received great critical praise. After this triumphant debut, the RSO Stuttgart engaged Michael to conduct concerts in June 2009, for Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* and Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and most recently in March 2010, where his performances of Sibelius' 7th Symphony and Prokofiev's 7th Symphony were highly received in the press. In January 2010, Mr. Francis made his Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France debut, and was invited to return in November 2010. In April 2010, he worked with Anne-Sophie Mutter, conducting a series of concerts in Japan and Taiwan with the National Taipei Symphony Orchestra and the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. During this tour, Mr.

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Francis was asked last minute to stand in to conduct the Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra, to great triumph.

Michael Francis came to prominence as a conductor in January 2007 when he was asked, with 12 hours' notice, to replace an indisposed Valery Gergiev for the rehearsals and performance of Gubaidulina's *Märchen-Poem* and *Pro et Contra* with the London Symphony Orchestra during the BBC Gubaidulina festival at the Barbican Centre. Only one month later, Michael was asked, this time with only two hours' notice, to replace the composer/conductor John Adams in a performance of his own works with the LSO at the Philharmonie Luxembourg: the program was Slonimsky's *Earbox*, *The Dharma at Big Sur* (an electric violin concerto with Leila Josefowicz) and *Naïve and Sentimental Music*. In October 2008, Michael was a finalist in the Donatella Flick Conducting Competition, where he conducted the LSO in a performance of Ravel's *Daphnis & Chloe Suite No. 2* to critical acclaim.

The LSO first became aware of Michael's conducting ability when he took a rehearsal, with no notice, of Shostakovich's *Fourth Symphony* on a tour of Lithuania in 2006. The orchestra has since continued to regularly invite Michael to conduct rehearsals as an assistant to Valery Gergiev, as well as education concerts, composers' workshops, brass concerts and string orchestra concerts. He regularly conducts the LSO in the recording studio, where he has recorded piano concerti with the young Canadian pianist, Ian Parker, and has just completed collaborating with Valentina Lisitsa and the London Symphony Orchestra on recordings Rachmaninov's *Piano Concertos Nos. 1 through 4* and *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, which are scheduled to be released in Spring 2011.

Following a highly successful master class with Maestro Gergiev and the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra during the Gergiev Festival in Rotterdam 2007, Michael was invited to conduct a series of concerts with the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra in June and October 2008. He made his Concertgebouw debut conducting the Netherlands Philharmonic in September 2009. Michael was also subsequently asked by the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra to assist Valery Gergiev for his entire Brahms Cycle and 2008 Festival where he has conducted many rehearsals and worked with artists such as Nelson Friere, Janine Jansen, Ekaterina Gubanova, Mariusz Kwiecien, Solveig Kringleborn and the Swedish Radio Choir.

In November 2008, Michael made his debut with the Orchestre Philharmonie du Luxembourg in a concert with Roberto Alagna, and in July 2009 Michael made his debut with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra with a program including Mozart's *Clarinet Concerto* and Ricardo Morales. In late May of 2009, Michael conducted the Mariinsky Orchestra in St. Petersburg for a celebration honoring the outstanding international prize winners of the Musical Olympus Festival, with a program featuring Dvořák, *Othello Overture*, the Elgar *Cello Concerto* and numerous opera arias. He has been asked by Daniel Harding to conduct rehearsals with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, and by Michael Tilson Thomas to work with the New World Symphony Orchestra in Miami.

2015/16 season only. Please contact Japan Arts if you wish to edit this biography.

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