



JOHN STORGÅRDS

Conductor

"Indeed, the impressive musical results supported the acclaim that has greeted the (...) Finnish conductor at every step of his rapid podium ascent worldwide."

– Chicago Tribune

Chief Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, and Principal Guest Conductor of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra Ottawa, John Storgårds has a dual career as a conductor and violin virtuoso and is widely recognised for his creative flair for programming as well as his rousing yet refined performances. As Artistic Director of the Lapland Chamber

Orchestra, a title he has held for over 25 years, Storgårds earns global critical acclaim for the ensemble's adventurous performances and award-winning recordings.

Highlights of Storgårds' 2024/25 season include two appearances at the BBC Proms with the BBC Philharmonic, with programmes including the UK premiere of Hans Abrahamsen's Horn Concerto, and the fourth symphonies of Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich. Further season highlights include return engagements with, among others, Bamberger Symphoniker and Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra, and in North America with Cincinnati Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. In May 2025, Storgårds serves as Jury Chair for the XIII International Jean Sibelius Violin Competition in Helsinki.

Storgårds appears with such orchestras as Berliner Philharmoniker, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Münchner Philharmoniker, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, ORF Radio-Symphonieorchester Wien, Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, BBC Symphony Orchestra, and London Philharmonic Orchestra as well as all major Nordic orchestras including the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, where he was Chief Conductor from 2008 to 2015. He also regularly returns to the Münchener Kammerorchester, where he was Artistic Partner from 2016 to 2019. Further afield, he appears with Sydney, Melbourne, Tokyo Metropolitan, Yomiuri Nippon, and NHK Symphony Orchestras as well as Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Soloists with whom he collaborates include Emanuel Ax, Yefim Bronfman, Colin Currie, Sol Gabetta, Kirill Gerstein, Augustin Hadelich, Hilary Hahn, Håkan Hardenberger, Leila Josefowicz, Lucas and Arthur Jussen, Kari Krieku, Truls Mørk, Gil Shaham, Christian Tetzlaff, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Anne Sofie von Otter, and Roderick Williams, as well as with his "dynamic duo"-partner Barbara Hannigan for acclaimed podium swap engagements. As a violinist, Storgårds regularly performs as chamber musician and in recital, with appearances at festivals worldwide including the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival in the USA.

Storgårds' vast repertoire includes all symphonies by Sibelius, Nielsen, Bruckner, Brahms, Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, and Schumann, including the Finnish premieres of Schumann's only opera 'Genoveva' and the early 'Zwickau' symphony, plus world premieres of Sibelius' Suite op. 117 for violin and strings and the Late Fragments. As soloist, he gave the Finnish premiere of Schumann's own violin transcription of the cello concerto, as well as the Violin Sonata No 3. Embracing contemporary repertoire in his programmes, Storgårds regularly performs world premieres with many works being dedicated to him, including Per Nørgård's Symphony No. 8 as well as Kaija Saariaho's Nocturne for solo violin. In opera he conducted the world premiere production of Sebastian Fagerlund's 'Höstsonaten – Autumn Sonata' at the Finnish National Opera directed by Stéphane Braunschweig. The title was a finalist at the 2018 International Opera Awards and was revived in autumn 2019. In the 2022/23 season, Storgårds led the world premiere production of Tapio Tuomela's new opera 'The Fur Hat Opera', performing in Rovaniemi and at the Finnish National Opera with his Lapland Chamber Orchestra. Later in the season, Storgårds returned to the Finnish National Opera with Shostakovich's 'Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk'.



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Storgårds' award-winning discography features works by Schumann, Mozart, Beethoven, and Haydn, and also rarities by Holmboe and Vasks' featuring him as soloist. With the BBC Philharmonic, two cycles of symphonies by Sibelius (2014) and Nielsen (2015) were released to critical acclaim by Chandos. November 2019 saw the release of the third and final volume of works by American avant-garde composer George Antheil. Their latest project, the symphonies of Shostakovich, commenced in April 2020 with the release of Symphony No. 11. For BIS Records, John Storgårds and the Lapland Chamber Orchestra have released numerous critically acclaimed recordings, including Mahler's 10th symphony in a special arrangement by Michelle Castelletti, works by Finnish composer Outi Tarkiainen, and Danish composer Hans Abrahamsen's 'Schnee'. Other successes include discs of works by Nørgård, Korngold, Aho, and Rautavaara, the latter receiving a Grammy nomination and a Gramophone Award in 2012. In 2023, Storgårds and the BBC Philharmonic were nominated for Gramophone magazine's "Orchestra of the Year Award".

Storgårds studied violin with Chaim Taub and subsequently became concert master of the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Esa-Pekka Salonen, before studying conducting with Jorma Panula and Eri Klas. He received the Finnish State Prize for Music in 2002 and the Pro Finlandia Prize 2012.