



Jack Price
Managing Director

13360 N. 99th Pl.
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

e-mail:
jp@pricerubin.com

phone:
1-800-848-3360

fax:
1-888-439-1186

web site:
www.pricerubin.com

DEREK GLEESON

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Film Scoring Agent: Jim Durkin, VP Music, International Creative Management (ICM)
tel: +310-550-4184; e-mail: jdurkin@icmtalent.com

Conducting Agent: Jack Price, Director, Price Rubin & Partners
tel: +1-800-848-3360; e-mail: jp@pricerubin.com

Born in Dublin, Ireland, Derek Gleeson studied piano, percussion, composition and conducting at the music conservatories of Dublin, London and Vienna, and film scoring at the University of California, Los Angeles. By the age of 11, Gleeson was the recipient of many piano and percussion competition prizes within Ireland and Great Britain. At the age of 15 he was selected to represent Ireland as an orchestral musician in the European Community Youth Orchestra, where he had the opportunity to perform at the great European music festivals, such as Salzburg, Edinburgh and Lucerne Festivals under Maestros Herbert Van Karajan, Claudio Abbado, Sir George Solti and Leonard Bernstein. These early experiences moved him specifically toward a career in conducting. In 1984 he was also a prize winner in the Shell/LSO music scholarship program.

As a freelance musician, Gleeson performed with most of the British orchestras, including The London Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Orchestras, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, as well as European jazz and pop ensembles (e.g., EuroJazz, NYJO, and Clannad) before directing his time exclusively to conducting and composition in 1989. He held the position of Music Director of the Rückert Orchestra of Dublin from 1990 through 1993. He is presently Music Director of The Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra (a per-service professional orchestra choosing its members from the best of Ireland's orchestral musicians).

"Thanks to the authority & dynamism of their young and talented conductor

Derek Gleeson, the orchestra excelled itself."

The Irish Times (Dublin)

"His Mahler's Fifth Symphony was glorious."

The Irish Times (Dublin)

An ardent champion of contemporary music, Gleeson has provided many premier performances of works by living composers, his works also having been broadcast in Europe and the U.S. In December 2004, Gleeson's new concert work will be premiered in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Derek Gleeson has conducted the premier CD recording of Tchaikovsky's oratorio, "Ode To Joy," "The Original Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Overture," and Prokofiev's "Zdravitsa" with The London Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, available on Carlton Classics/IMP Masters.

"Performances are entirely convincing, polished and stylish under Irish conductor Gleeson's able leadership."

In Tune Magazine

"Derek Gleeson conducted with spirit . . . striking detail . . .

A must for anyone who loves Russian music."

Classic CD Magazine

Amongst others, Gleeson has conducted The London Philharmonic Orchestra, the RTE Concert Orchestra (Ireland's national broadcaster), The Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra (Ireland), Orchestra Da Camera Fiorentina (Italy), The Brohuslav Martinu Philharmonic (Czech Republic),

Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra (Czech Republic), Philharmonic Orchestra Hradec Kralove (Czech Republic), RTL Orchestra (Luxembourg), NOS Orchestra (Holland), The Ruckert Orchestra (Ireland), Szombathely-Savaria Symphony Orchestra (Hungary), The Danish Radio Concert Orchestra (Denmark), Orchestra of the Sadlers Wells Royal Ballet (England), Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Vratza Philharmonic, Plovdiv State Opera and Bourgas Opera/Philharmonic (Bulgaria), and The Los Angeles Composers Guild Chamber Orchestra (U.S.A.). Gleeson's opera repertoire includes performances of Verdi's "*La Traviata*", "*Il Trovatore*" and "*Rigoletto*", Mozart's "*La Nozze di Figaro*," "*Don Giovanni*" and "*Magic Flute*," Bizet's "*Carmen*" and Tchaikovsky's "*Eugene Onegin*."

Gleeson recorded the first Gaelic rendition of Prokofiev's "*Peter & The Wolf*". He conducts The Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra ("DPO") in "*Carolan Suite*" on Patrick Cassidy's CD, "*Deirdre of the Sorrows*" (BMG/Windham Hill), and with The DPO recorded and conducted American composer Don Ray's orchestral suite, "*Family Portrait*" and the premier recording of Ray's "*Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*" in 2003 with Philharmonia Bulgarica, released on Albany Records in 2004. He will record Ray's "*Homestead Dances*" with the DPO in November 2004, to be released on Albany Records in 2005. Conducting engagements for 2005 include, among others, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, The Vratza Philharmonic (Bulgaria), Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Bourgas State Opera (Bulgaria), Bucharest Philharmonic Orchestra (Romania), and the premier recording of composer Patrick Cassidy's new "*Mass*" with The London Symphony Orchestra.

Derek Gleeson has composed film scores for the feature films "*The White Pony*" (Director: Brian Kelly), "*Irish Whiskey*" (Director: Jon Stevens), "*Moving Target*" (Director: Paul Ziller) and "*The Doorway*" (Director: Michael Druzman), and additional music on "*The Suicide Club*" (Director: Rachel Samuels). In addition to composing music for film, Gleeson is the Director of Screen Training Ireland's Film Scoring Programme, Dublin, and was Executive Producer for MCA/Universal recording artist Carly Hennessey's debut album.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

"Thanks to the authority & dynamism of their young and talented conductor Derek Gleeson, the orchestra excelled itself. "

The Irish Times (Dublin)

"His Mahler's Fifth Symphony was glorious. "

The Irish Times (Dublin)

"Performances are entirely convincing, polished and stylish under Irish conductor Derek Gleeson's able leadership. "

In Tune

"Derek Gleeson conducted with spirit. . . striking detail. . . A must for anyone who loves Russian music. "

Classic CD

Conductor DEREK GLEESON with
The London Philharmonic Orchestra & Choir in unique recordings of rare masterworks
by TCHAIKOVSKY and PROKOFIEV - Carlton Classics/IMF Masters label

"Derek Gleeson, a rising star among conductors, delivers superb performances of music with immense interest."

Records International

"Performances are entirely convincing, polished & stylish under Irish conductor Gleeson's able leadership."

In Tune

"... a desirable recording for anyone who loves Russian music . . conducting and playing - quite sensitive and alert."

American Record Guide

"Something truly different comes along only rarely on recordings . The music is very fine . . . fascinating."

CD Review

Derek Gleeson - Conductor

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"Two hitherto neglected choral works . . . receive excellent performances . . . handled superbly by Gleeson's forces."

Tower Classical News

"A stunning CD"

Jim Sveda, KUSC Radio (Los Angeles)

"A unique performance . . . altogether fascinating"

Rich Caparella, Preview Hour, nationally syndicated, U.S.A.

REFERENCES

Milen Nachev, Conductor

Chief Conductor, Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra
Los Angeles personal tel: (310) 301-2519
c/o Price, Rubin & Partners
Tel: (800) 848-3360; Fax: (888) 439-1186

Valeri Vatchev, Conductor

Chief Conductor, Vratza Philharmonic, Bulgaria
Residence: z.k. Geo Milev, bl. 43, vh.A, 36.4, ap. 10
Sofia, Bulgaria
Personal tel: + 359-2-72-72-92 Mobile: + 359-(0)88-351-948

Colman Pearce, Conductor

National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland
National Concert Hall
Earlsford Terrace
Dublin 2, Ireland
Mobile: + 353-(0)87-686-0977

Randall (Randy) Svane, Composer Residence: 309 Grove Street
Montclair, N.J. 07042 Personal tel: (973) 783-6787

Gavin O'Sullivan, Manager

National Concert Hall
Earlsford Terrace
Dublin 2, Ireland
Mobile: + 353-(0)87-245-6971

Karen Chester, Classical Record Producer (for Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, among others) Residence: 160 West 87th Street
New York, N.Y. 10024
212-501-3343 Office