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THOMAS MCINTOSH

CONDUCTOR



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BIOGRAPHY

Thomas McIntosh, conductor/pianist, was awarded a Rockefeller Fund for Music Scholarship and educated at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City, where he had the unique distinction of studying orchestral conducting with Jean Morel, piano with Edward Steuermann, and choral conducting with Frederick Prausnitz. Thomas McIntosh was first prize winner in the International Kranichstein Competition, Germany, and a prize winner of the Busoni Competition, Bolzano, Italy. These awards launched a career which has taken Mr McIntosh as conductor/pianist, to more than 70 countries of the world.

Mr. McIntosh is Music Director/Conductor of the London City Chamber Orchestra; Principal Guest Conductor of the Canton Symphony Orchestra, China; and Artistic Director of the International East Anglian Summer Music Festival. He is particularly active conducting in the Far East and has had a number of appearances with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philippines; EPI Orchestra of Tokyo, Japan; the Guangzhou (Canton) Symphony Orchestra, Pearl River Film Studio Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and Beijing Philharmonic Orchestra in The People's Republic of China; and both the National Orchestra of Taiwan and the Taiwan Symphony Orchestra. He has also toured the European continent with the London City Chamber Orchestra.

On 4 March 2004 Thomas McIntosh returned to Eisenach, Eisenach, for the fourth time to conduct the Landeskappelle Orchestra in a programme which included a suite by Purcell, the first performance of Prokofiev's operatic fragment Hamlet in that city, and the Ralph Vaughan Williams' 5th Symphony. He returned 23 October from the Czech Republic, where he conducted the principal concert of the Czech October Festival. His performance of Mendelssohn's Reformation Symphony was greatly praised. A fortnight later he travelled to The People's Republic of China and conducted the famous Pearl River Film Orchestra in Guangzhou in a concert which included his Rag Suite and Gottschalk Grand Tarantelle for Piano and Orchestra, as well as performing the 24 Piano Etudes of Chopin, concerts which were greeted with standing ovation and many 'Bravos'.

With Opera Anglia, for which he serves as Artistic Director, Mr McIntosh has produced and conducted more than two dozen operas, including the world première production of American Composer Victor Yellin's Abaylar, as well as a highly successful recent revival of Mozart's Lucio Silla. Recent performances have included Verdi's La Forza del Destino and Macbeth.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

“It is impossible to get tired of hearing the gloriously written Tchaikovsky Serenade for Strings; it has a loveliness of spirit that unerringly takes charge of every performance. Thomas McIntosh and the London City Chamber Orchestra had a lovely time with it relishing its warmth and marvellously clear scoring.” The Times, London

“Busoni’s Indian Fantasy is an interesting masterly piece, brilliantly presented by guest conductor, [conductor/pianist] Thomas McIntosh, an American resident in England.”
Sächsische Zeitung, Dresden

“Thomas McIntosh directed with complete discipline and integrity.” (World première of Dodgson’s opera Margaret Catchpole). Music & Musicians, London

“Impressive concert performed by the Baden-Baden in the ‘Kurhaus’. With music of the highest standard that BBO painted the picture of Christmas peace and reconciliation under the baton of guest conductor Thomas McIntosh. Due to the thoughtful interpretation the original intention of the Baroque harmonisation in Schiassi’s Christmas Symphony was experienced vividly by the audience. Clear and consistent tone colouring was characteristic of McIntosh’s conducting. The enthusiastic audience displayed its gratitude by a seemingly never-ending applause for this magnificent Christmas gift.” Badner Tagblatt, Baden-Baden

“Gentlemanlike! That sums up Thomas McIntosh who, in the sixth main concert, dipped deeply into the romantic paint pots with works of Ravel, Camille Saint-Säens, and Robert Schumann, and with his delicate nuance of the particular and firm control of the general, created a fascinating overall impression.”
Hans Karl Pesch, Solinger Morgenpost

“Economical but explicit. The guest conductor of the evening was American born Thomas McIntosh. He understood how to transmit the meaning of the music in every phase of the concert with the aid of the outstandingly well-disposed orchestra. With an economical but always explicit baton technique, through which he effortlessly met each musical challenge, he was able to lead the Landeskappelle Orchestra through the drama of the overture whose introductory ‘Chords of Destiny’ were soon dispersed by the restless Tutti. In no way did the instrumentalists perform mechanically, on the contrary they followed McIntosh’s interpretation with total awareness. Verdi’s La forza del Destino thus became in the true sense the overture to the climax of the symphony concert : Prokofiev’s 3rd Piano Concerto.”
Mitteldeutsche Allgemeine, Eisenach

“Thomas McIntosh was not only guest conductor of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra but also introduced verbally each work in the concert so that young people and students could understand the music better. Through his familiarity of Beethoven’s Pastoral Symphony both as a conductor and a scholar of music, he gave a vivid description of the various movements, and under his able direction the PPO gave life to the Pastoral’s message of lyrical beauty and spiritual peace.” Business World, Manila

“The English guest conductor Thomas McIntosh conducted the 5th Philharmonic Concert (in Gera). From his native country he brought with him a tremendous orchestral work, the Sixth

Symphony in E-minor by Vaughan Williams. The setting follows the tradition of Bruckner, Strauss and Berlioz and concentrates almost more on the brass percussion instruments than on the woodwind and strings. This may sound trivial but within the whole work there are contained such magnificent musical ideas and such profound working through of these that the listener becomes involuntarily captivated..... The final movement surpasses the drama of the preceding ones and proves to be surprisingly tender so that it arouses strong emotions..... Heartfelt thanks are due to both orchestra and conductor." Ostthüringische Zeitung, Gera

"Bravo for Hildeheim Theatre Orchestra guest conductor Thomas McIntosh. McIntosh chose disciplined tempi and sympathetic moods for Dvorak's Legends Nos 1-5, which he conducted convincingly and successfully. The flexible orchestra went along with this, elegantly augmenting the contrasting rich passages. The jubilant D-major and the more sober minor of the second, and the fervent Slavonic dance melody, alongside the aural spaciousness in the 3rd Legend. Thomas McIntosh remained faithful to Dvorak's musical indications in the 4th, thus enhancing the sound rather than making the piece bombastic. Such conducting by the American-born conductor in Gustav Holst's St Paul Suite. An entire universe was superbly demonstrated by Thomas McIntosh and the excellent strings of the Hildesheim Orchestra." Roland Morchen, Hildesheimer Allgemeine Zeitung.

REPERTOIRE

Thomas McIntosh's repertoire runs to over 1,000 works. Here is a selection of programmes, typical of his repertoire. A full repertoire listing is available on request.

Programme A

Mozart Piano Concerto F major K413
McIntosh piano/conductor
Mozart Cantata Exsultate, jubilate K165
Mahler Symphony G major No 4

Programme B

Berg Chamber Concerto
Mahler Das Lied von der Erde

Programme C

George Antheil Symphony for Five Instruments
Mozart Eine kleine Nachtmusik K525
Stravinsky The Soldier's Tale

Programme D

Kurt Weill Violin Concerto
Walton Façade

Programme E

Busoni Comedy Overture Opus 38
Busoni Clarinet Concertino Opus 28
Busoni Berceuse Elégiaque Opus 42
Busoni Indian Fantasy for Piano & Orchestra
Opus 44 McIntosh piano/conductor
Busoni Five Goethe Songs
Busoni Tanzwalzer Opus 53

Programme F

Elgar Cockaigne Overture
Paganini Violin Concerto No1
Holst The Planets

Programme G

Schubert Symphony No1
Mozart Piano Concerto No12 in A, K414
Brahms Symphony No2, D major

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