



*Price • Rubin*  
& PARTNERS

**Jack Price**  
**Managing Director**

***Michelle Rubin***  
***Founding Director***

220 West Pershing Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85029

**e-mail:**  
***dt@pricerubin.com***

**phone:**  
**1-800-848-3360**

**fax:**  
**1-888-439-1186**

**website:**  
***www.pricerubin.com***

# Vladimir Ponkin

## CONDUCTOR



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# BIOGRAPHY

Conductor Vladimir Ponkin is one of the leading musicians of Moscow and Russia. His numerous awards include The Medal of Ministry of Arts and Culture of Poland «For the merit in the field of Culture» (1997), Order «For the service to Russia» (2006), «Defender of the Fatherland» Cross (2005) and others

Vladimir Ponkin was born in Irkutsk. Graduated from Gorky Conservatory and Moscow Conservatory where he studied conducting with Gennady Rozhdestvensky. In 1980 he became a First Prize winner at Rupert Foundation Conducting Competition. Maestro Ponkin headed Yaroslavl Symphony Orchestra, State Symphony Orchestra of Cinematography, Krakow Philharmonic and Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Music Theater.

Maestro Ponkin has toured Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, United States and Yugoslavia. He performed with many prominent soloists: singers Angela Gheorghiu, José Cura, Dmitry Hvoroskovsky, Yevgeny Nesterenko, Paata Burchuladze, Zurab Sotkilava, Maria Biyeshu, Yuri Mazurok, Lucia Alberti and Virgilius Noreika, pianists Ivo Pogorelich, Yevgeny Kissin, Grigory Sokolov, Daniel Pollak, Denis Matsuev, Vladimir Krainev, Viktor Yampolsky, Elisso Virsaladze, Edith Chen and Nikolai Petrov, violinists Andrei Korsakov, Sergei Stadler and Oleh Krysa, cellist Natalia Gutman and others.

The performance of Krzysztof Penderecki's «The Resurrection» in Stockholm became one of the most outstanding concerts given by Maestro Ponkin. The composer was highly impressed and said that after such a performance he didn't want to conduct the piece himself.

«*We praise the Russian conductor who made Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra sound like never before!*» – wrote Yugoslavian newspapers after the performance of Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto with legendary pianist Ivo Pogorelich.

The concert at the residence of Pope John Paul II is always an outstanding event. The performance of Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra was so successful that His Holiness asked for encores and rewarded Maestro Ponkin with an Honorable Guest Medal.

From 1990 to 2004 Vladimir Ponkin served as Music Director and Principal Conductor of The State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Philharmony. During that period SSOMP became one of the most sought-after Russian orchestras. SSOMP and Vladimir Ponkin appeared at most prestigious venues of the world and at prominent Russian and European music festivals.

Special place in Mr. Ponkin's life belongs to the opera. In 1996 he was invited to take the position of Principal Conductor of Moscow Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Music Theater. His first productions there were *The Tale of Tzar Saltan* by Rimsky-Korsakov, *Othello* by Verdi and ballets *Romeo and Juliet* by Prokofiev, *The Taming of The Shrew* by Mikhail Bronner and *Shulammit* by Valeria Besedina which had a great success.

Since 1999 Ponkin is a Principal Conductor of Helikon Opera in Moscow. His productions there include Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, Berg's *Lulu*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Kashchei the Immortal*, Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Prokofiev's *Fallen from the Sky*, Giordano's *Siberia* and others.

In 2002 - 2006 Vladimir Ponkin was a Principal Conductor of Galina Vishnevskaya Opera Center where he has led the new productions of Rimsky-Korsakov's *Tzar's Bride*, Glinka's *Ruslan and Lyudmila*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Gounod's *Faust* and other operas.

«If you ask the Moscow music lovers who is today's best conductor, many will name Vladimir Ponkin». Unlike the other conductors he possesses the vast repertoire which includes not only majority of works by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff but also very seldomplayed opuses of Stravinsky and Elgar. Ponkin is not afraid to perform contemporary music. He premiered in Russia works of Lutoslawski and Penderecki. Under his baton the Contemporary Music Ensemble made its first steps in the beginning of nineties. And yet he does not limit himself to this. He brilliantly accompanies the soloists, both singers and instrumentalists.

Ponkin's discography includes the recordings of world's classics and modern music: works of Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Scriabin, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Penderecki, Lutoslawski, Denisov and Gubaidulina.

Vladimir Ponkin has always been active as an educator. He regularly gives concerts for the children and youth. Subscription concerts «I Want to Be a Conductor» enjoy enormous popularity. At these concerts, the conductor enacts the part of a presenter and invites youngsters from the audience to talk about music. The program of the concerts is a fascinating excursion into the realm of Russian and foreign classical music, in which children learn to listen to the music, understand the orchestra and even get a chance to conduct.

Maestro Ponkin is a Professor of Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory. He is frequently invited to international master classes in Russia and abroad.

On January 1, 2005 Vladimir Ponkin took the position of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of The Ossipov Balalaika Orchestra (The Ossipov National Academic Folk Instruments Orchestra of Russia), one of the most famous Russian orchestras, ensemble of musicians with a long and rich history. Under Mr. Ponkin's guidance the Orchestra continues to preserve and develop the best traditions of Russian folk music and performing art. Since the time of its foundation and until our days the Ossipov Balalaika Orchestra performed thousands of concerts all over the world and deserved the reputation of one of the best folk ensembles of the planet. With appointment of a new Music Director began the new era – era of Ponkin.

# CRITICAL ACCLAIM

«Mussorgsky's Night on the Bare Mountain which was performed first, instantly revealed the best qualities of the orchestra. That was an ardent musicality combined with baton technique discipline and care of Vladimir Ponkin who conducted with confidence and clarity».

*Mannheimer Morgen, Germany*

«Vladimir Ponkin's filigree conducting of Shostakovich's 9th... makes possible the solo of woodwinds: 'jocular' flutes, oboes, clarinets, 'playful' bassoon. Storm of applause lasted endlessly... The gifted conductor knew how to share with the orchestra the joy of making music.»

*Taunuskurier*

«The State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Philharmony under Vladimir Ponkin created a furor with a very first piece, Overture to Wagner's Rienzi. All nuances of this overture which are rarely evident in other performances were played with a special delicacy\_.

*NRZ Oberhausen (Germany)*

«Ponkin's baton is superb... The skill of this active, musically gifted, alert and perceptive conductor should be specially mentioned».

*Corriere della Sera (Milan, Italy)*

«The new conductor, Vladimir Ponkin, exhibits the gift of a born musician and the mastery of an experienced conductor – it has been a long time since the orchestra sounded so rich and complete».

*Nezavisimaya Gazeta, Moscow*

«Ponkin revealed his best side to Moscow audience, the side which promises him the fame of one of the best conductors of his generation... Cordiality of Ponkin's art is astounding».

*Screen and Stage, Moscow*

«The leading role in this production (Helikon Opera, Alban Berg's Lulu) belongs to conductor Vladimir Ponkin. The student of Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Ponkin who is considered the outstanding interpreter of music of 20th century, received much acclaim for this performance. Mr. Ponkin makes Berg sound like early Mozart; easily getting over all technical difficulties he emphasizes lyrical and grotesque parts of the score. Like in many of modern productions, Helikon Opera uses the Third Act which was finished by Friedrich Cerha. In Ponkin's hands this act becomes a restoration of an ancient fresco – a real help for our ears in filling the material unfinished by the author.»

*Opera Review, Moscow*

«Musician of European level, Ponkin shows the remarkable Russian feature, to go straight forward despite all losses and to conquer by all means.»

*Kommersant Daily, Moscow*

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Education

1976 Graduated from Gorky Conservatory

1980 Graduated from Moscow Conservatory class of Gennady Rozhdestvensky.

1980 - First Prize winner at Rupert Foundation Conducting Competition.

## Orchestral Affiliations (long-term)

1980 - First Prize winner at Rupert Foundation Conducting Competition.

Head of Yaroslavl Symphony Orchestra,

Head of State Symphony Orchestra of Cinematography,

Head of Krakow Philharmonic

1990 - 2004 Music Director and Principal Conductor of The State Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Philharmony.

1996 - Principal Conductor of Moscow Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Music Theater.

From 1999 - Principal Conductor of Helikon Opera in Moscow.

2002 - 2006 Principal Conductor of Galina Vishnevskaya Opera Center

From 2004 Professor of Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory

From 2004 Leads International master classes in Russia and abroad

From 2005 Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of The Ossipov Balalaika Orchestra (The Ossipov National Academic Folk Instruments Orchestra of Russia)

## Orchestral Affiliations (guest conducting)

BBC Symphony Orchestra

Leningrad Philharmonic

Stockholm Radio Orchestra

Palm Beach Orchestra

And many others

# REPERTOIRE

## **Albinoni**

Konzert für Trompete und Orchester B-Dur

## **Bach, John Christian**

Sinfonia in Bb "Lucio Silla"

## **Bach, Johann Sebastian**

Brandenburg Concerti (complete)

Orchestral Suites (complete)

Jesu, Meine Freude

Various Cantatas

## **Bach-Stokowski**

Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor

## **Barber, Samuel**

Adagio for Strings

Concerto for Violin

## **Bartok, Bela**

Concerto for Orchestra

Divertimento for Strings

Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta

Piano Concerto No.3

Rhapsody for Violin No.1

Rumanian Folk Dances

The Miraculous Mandarin

## **Beethoven, Ludwig van**

Symphonies (all)

Piano Concerti (all)

Overtures (all)

Violin Concerto

## **Berg, Alban**

Kammerkonzert for Piano, Violin, and Winds

## **Berlioz, Hector**

Symphonie Fantastique

La Damnation de Faust

Les Nuits d'Été

Overtures: Béatrice et Bénédict, Le Corsair,

Carnaval Romain

## **Bernstein, Leonard**

Symphonic Dances from West Side Story

Symphonie Nr. 2 The Age of Anxiety

Candide Overture

**Bizet, Georges**

Symphony in C  
L'Arlesienne Suites 1 & 2  
Carmen (complete)

**Borodin, Alexander**

In the Steppes of Central Asia  
Symphony No.2  
Polovetskie Pliaski (from the opera "Prince Igor")

**Brahms, Johannes**

Ein Deutsches Requiem  
Symphonies (all)  
Serenades for orchestra (all)  
Concerti (all)  
Overtures (all)

**Britten, Benjamin**

Les Illuminations  
Simple Symphony  
Sinfonia da Requiem

**Bruckner, Anton**

Symphonies 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9

Copland, Aaron  
Ballets: Appalachian Spring,  
Salon México,

**Corelli**

Concerto grosso g-moll

**Debussy, Claude**

Prelude to the "Afternoon of a Faun"  
Images  
La Mer  
Nocturnes

**Donizetti, Gaetano**

L'Elisir D'Amore (complete)

**Dvorak, Anton**

Symphonies 6, 7, 8, and 9  
Cello Concerto  
Slavonic Dances (all)  
Serenades for Strings and Winds  
Overtures: Carnival, Othello, In Nature's Realm

**Elgar, Edward**

Enigma Variations

Concerto for Cello and Orchestra  
Serenade for Strings  
Pomp and Circumstance marches

**Franck, César**

Symphony in D minor

**Gershwin, George**

Rhapsody in Blue  
An American in Paris

**Grieg, Edvard**

Peer Gynt Suites 1 and 2

**Händel, Georg Friedrich**

Messiah  
Royal Fireworks & Water Music  
Haydn, Franz Josef  
Symphonies 60, 73, 82, 85, 86, 88–93, 99–104  
The Creation  
Oboe and Trumpet Concertos  
Hindemith, Paul  
Mathis der Maler: Symphony  
Noblissima Visione  
Symphonic Metamorphoses  
Holst, Gustav  
The Planets  
Suites 1 and 2 for Military Band  
St. Paul's Suite  
Honegger, Arthur  
Symphony No. 3 (Liturgique)  
Ives, Charles  
The Unanswered Question  
Concerto grosso d-moll

**Janacek, Leos**

Suite for Strings

**Koussevitzky**

Konzert für Kontrabass und Orchester

**Liszt, Franz**

Les Preludes  
Piano Concerti 1 and 2

**Mahler, Gustav**

Symphonies 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9  
Kindertotenlieder  
Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen

**Manfredini**

Weihnachtskonzert

**Martinu, Bohuslav**

Symphonies 4, 6  
Frescoes of Piero della Francesca

**Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Felix**

Concert für violin, piano and stringorchestra d-moll  
Mendelssohn, Felix  
Symphonies 3, 4 and 5  
Overtures: Fingal's Cave, Ruy Blas, Midsummer  
Night's Dream  
Messaien, Olivier  
L'Ascension  
Oiseaux Exotiques

**Moncayo, José Pablo**

Huapango

**Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus**

Symphonies 17, 29, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41  
Violin Concerti 3-5,  
Oboe Concerto  
Così fan tutte (complete)  
Die Zauberflöte (complete)  
Don Giovanni (complete)  
La Nozze di Figaro (complete)  
Die Entführung aus dem Serail (complete)  
Divertimento f-dur KV.138  
Flute Concert Nr.1 G-dur  
Klarinettenkonzert A-Dur KV622  
Konzertsatz Andante KV315

**Nielsen, Carl**

Symphonies 2, 3, 4, and 5  
Clarinet concerto

**Orff, Carl**

Carmina Burana

**Poulenc, Francis**

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra  
Sinfonietta

**Prokofief, Sergei**

Symphonies 1, 4, 5, and 7  
Suite from Lieutenant Kijé  
Sinfonietta  
Peter and the Wolf  
Alexander Nevsky  
Violin Concertos 1 and 2

**Puccini, Giacomo**

La Boheme (complete)  
Intermezzo from Manon Lescaut

**Rachmaninoff, Sergei**

Symphonic Dances  
Symphony No. 2  
Isle of the Dead  
Piano concerts (all)

**Rajewa, Olga**

Perception

**Ravel, Maurice**

Daphnis et Chloe: Suites 1 and 2  
Le Tombeau de Couperin  
Ma mère l'Oye (Mother Goose) Suite  
Piano Concerti 1 and 2  
Tzigane

**Respighi, Ottorino**

Festivals, Fountains, and Pines of Rome

**Rihm, Wolfgang**

Adagio for Strings

**Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolai**

Capriccio Espagnol  
Russian Easter Overture  
Scheherezade

**Rossini, Gioacchino**

Clarinet variations  
Overtures: La Gazza Ladra, La Scala di Seta,  
William Tell

**Saint-Saens, Camille**

Symphony No.3 "Organ"

**Segerstam, Leif**

Sinfonie N. 102

**Schoenberg, Arnold**

First Chamber Symphony, op. 9  
Pierrot Lunaire  
Five Pieces for Orchestra  
Pelléas und Mélisande

**Schubert, Franz**

Symphonies 4, 5, 8, and 9  
Overture to Rosamunde

**Schuman, William**

New England Triptych

**Schumann, Robert**

Symphonies (all)

Piano Concerto

**Shostakovich, Dmitri**

Symphonies 1, 5, 9, 10, 11, 15

Cello Concerto No.1

Violin Concerto Nr. 1

Concerto for Piano and Trumpet

**Sibelius, Jean**

Symphonies 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

Péleas and Mélisande Suite

Finlandia

Karelia Suite

Violin Concerto

**Strauss, Johann Jr.**

Die Fledermaus (complete)

Märche, Polkas, Arias

**Strauss, Richard**

Death and Transfiguration

Don Juan

Don Quixote

Till Eulenspiegel

Metamorphosen for Strings

Ein Heldenleben

Rosenkavalier Walzes

Oboe Concerto

Romanze for Cello and Orchestra

**Stravinsky, Igor**

Concerto in D for Strings

Concerto in E-flat "Dumbarton Oaks"

L'Oiseau de Feu

Petrushka

Psalms Symphony

Le Sacre du Printemps

Symphonies of Wind Instruments

Symphony in C

Violin Concerto

**Tchaikovsky, Piotr Ilyich**

Symphonies 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Francesca da Rimini

Romeo and Juliet

Violin Concerto

Serenade for Strings

Souvenir de Florence

**Torelli**

Concerto für Trompete und Orchester D-Dur

**Vaughan-Williams, Ralph**

Fantasia on Greensleeves

Tuba Concerto

**Verdi, Giuseppe**

La Traviata (complete)

Overtures: La Forza del Destino, Nabucco, I

Vesperi Siciliani

**Vivaldi, Antonio**

Concert for 2 violin and string a-moll

**Wagner, Richard**

Tristan und Isolde: Prelude and Finale

Parsifal: Prelude and Good Friday Music

Overtures: Der Meistersinger, Faust, Flying

Dutchman, Tannhäuser

Excerpts from Der Ring des Nibelungen

Siegfried Idyll

**Walton, William**

Viola Concerto

**Weill, Kurt**

Symphony No. 2

# SAMPLE PROGRAMS

## 2007-2008 Season

### 2006-2007 Season

30.03.2007

Philharmonie Berlin Kammermusiksaal  
Beethoven & Mozart

Beethoven  
Piano Concert Nr.1 C-dur  
Mozart  
Flute Concert Nr.1 G-dur  
Sinfonia Concertante in Es-dur

04.03.2007

Beloselsky-Belozersky Palace, St. Petersburg, Russia

Berlioz Romeo und Julie, Romantic schene  
Rossini Clarinet variations  
Beethoven Symphony 4

### 2005-2006 Season

25.12.2005

Philharmonie Berlin Kammermusiksaal  
Weihnachtskonzert PHILHARMONISCHES KAMMERORCHESTER BERLIN

Albinoni  
Konzert für Trompete und Orchester B-Dur  
Bach  
Brandenburgisches Konzert Nr.3 G-Dur  
Corelli  
Concerto grosso g-moll  
Händel  
Concerto grosso d-moll  
Manfredini  
Weihnachtskonzert  
Torelli  
Concerto für Trompete und Orchester D-Dur

31.12.2005

Konzerthaus Berlin  
Silvesterkonzert - PHILHARMONISCHES KAMMERORCHESTER BERLIN

Mozart: Konzertsatz Andante KV315  
Bach: Suite Nr.1 BWV1066  
Koussevitzky: Konzert für Kontrabass und Orchester  
Mozart: Sinfonie A-Dur KV201  
Mozart: Klarinettenkonzert A-Dur KV622

**2004-2005 Season**

30.12.2004

Konzerthaus Berlin

NEW YEAR EVE CONCERT "KONZERTHAUS BERLIN"

PHILHARMONISCHES KAMMERORCHESTER BERLIN

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

divertimento f-dur KV.138

Antonio Vivaldi

concert for 2 violin and string a-moll

Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy

concert für violin, piano and stringorchestra d-moll

Peter Iljitsch Tschaikowski

"Souvenir de Florence" d-moll op.70

# REFERENCES

**Gennadiy ROZHDESTVENSKIY**

Professor of Moscow State Conservatory  
Avenue Mozart 78  
Paris 75016

**Dmitry BERTMAN**

Artistic Director of "Helikon Opera" Theatre  
Novyi Arbat 11,  
Moscow, Russia