

DENNIS RUSSELL DAVIES

Season 2009-2010

Internationally acclaimed musician Dennis Russell Davies is avidly sought out for his extraordinary breadth of repertoire, technical brilliance and fearless music-making. A maverick in his field, he is hailed as “one of the few conductors whose unquestioned commitment to music of our age has not severed his connections to the standard repertory.” An esteemed presence who consistently remains at the forefront of both orchestral and operatic worlds, Mr. Davies is also an accomplished pianist, and is in demand by orchestras, composers and fellow musicians worldwide for his inspiring collaborations and interpretive mastery.

A frequent guest conductor with major orchestras and opera companies throughout the world, Mr. Davies is Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Bruckner Orchester Linz, and Chief Conductor of the Linz Opera. This season he begins his tenure as Music Director of the Basel Symphony Orchestra in Basel, Switzerland. Mr. Davies is also Professor of Orchestral Conducting at the Salzburg Mozarteum, and is the Conductor Laureate of the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra. In the United States, he holds the title of Conductor Laureate of the American Composers Orchestra, which he co-founded over 30 years ago. Furthermore, the year 2009 marks 40 years of uninterrupted music directorships of various orchestras both nationally and internationally for Dennis Russell Davies.

In addition to his commitments with the Bruckner Orchester and Opera in the city of Linz, which has been named a European Cultural Capital for 2009 (*Linz09*), Mr. Davies continues his affiliation with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, and in July 2009, marking the 200th anniversary of Haydn’s death, conducted the final concerts of the 11-year long *Mercedes-Benz Haydn Project*, completing a cycle during which all 107 Haydn Symphonies were performed and recorded in Stuttgart. Fall 2009 finds Mr. Davies back in Linz to conduct the world premieres of Philip Glass’s new opera *KEPLER*, jointly commissioned by the Linz Opera and *Linz09*, and Kurt Schwertsik’s ballet *Kafka-Amerika*, choreographed for the Linz Opera by Jochen Ulrich. Additional fall highlights include the second-ever Bruckner Orchester Linz U.S. tour, which comprises nine cities and includes a concert at Avery Fisher Hall on November 9, culminating in three performances of the North American premiere of Glass’s *KEPLER* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on November 18, 20 and 21. Other opera performances include Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro*, directed by Olivier Tambosi, and Offenbach’s *Les Contes d’Hoffmann*, directed by Aurelia Eggers, both with the Linz Opera in Linz.

Dennis Russell Davies returns to the U.S. in April to lead two programs with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in Minnesota, the first featuring pianist Maki Namekawa as soloist in Schnittke’s Concerto for Piano and Strings, and the second with Dawn Upshaw performing Louis Andriessen’s *Dances for Soprano and Orchestra*. Additional European appearances throughout the season include the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, MDR Symphonieorchester, Munich Philharmonic and Filarmonica della Scala, among others.

Mr. Davies continues to perform his acclaimed duo piano recitals with Maki Namekawa with appearances at the Piano Festival Ruhr and Radialsystem V in Germany; the Lincoln Center Festival, presenting the U.S. premiere of Philip Glass's *Four Movements for Two Pianos*, and Austrian Cultural Forum in New York; and at Schloß Gleinstätten in Austria.

Mr. Davies has served as Chief Conductor of the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, and Beethovenhalle Orchestra, and as Music Director of the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Stuttgart State Opera, Bonn Opera, and the Cabrillo Music Festival (Santa Cruz, CA); he also was Principal Conductor/Classical Music Program Director of the Philadelphia Orchestra at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Throughout his extensive career, Mr. Davies has been the music director/conductor for major opera productions in venues as varied as Bayreuth, Chicago, Paris, Houston, Lisbon and at the Metropolitan Opera. In Stuttgart, he balanced highly regarded and occasionally controversial standard repertory productions with adventurous programming that included several premieres, such as Henze's *The English Cat* and *König Hirsch*, Glass's *Akhnaten*, and Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence, Songs of Experience*. His diverse repertory is a testimony to his commitment to the artistic growth and development of each organization he has led, as well as to the living composers with whom he has collaborated.

As both conductor and pianist, Mr. Davies has released more than 60 recordings, earning numerous awards. His most recent recordings are Bruckner's Complete Symphonies, released in Europe in August 2009 by Arte Nova Classics/SONY BMG, and the complete Haydn Symphonies with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, released internationally by SONY Classical/SONY BMG in fall 2009, concluding the 11-year long *Mercedes Center Haydn Project*. Other recent recordings include Anthony Davis's *Amistad*, drawn from Lyric Opera of Chicago's world premiere performances and released in October 2008; Philip Glass's *The Voyage* with the Bruckner Orchester Linz and the Linz Opera on the Orange Mountain Music label; "*Die Zauberflöte – Klavier zu vier Händen*," and "*Fidelio – Klavier zu vier Händen*," with pianist Maki Namekawa, for Avi; "*Igor Stravinsky Orchestra Works*" and "*Diplipito*" – including *Valse Boston* (written for Mr. Davies as piano soloist) and other works by Kancheli – performed with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra on the ECM label. In addition, Orange Mountain Music has released "*Dennis Russell Davies Performs Philip Glass*," recorded with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, and Glass's *Symphony No. 6* and *Symphony No. 8* with the Bruckner Orchester Linz. Additional notable recordings include Bolcom's *A View from the Bridge* (from the world premiere live performances at the Chicago Lyric Opera), and a Chesky recording of Holst's *The Planets*.

Dennis Russell Davies was born in Toledo, Ohio, and graduated from The Juilliard School where he studied piano with Lonny Epstein and Sasha Gorodnitski, and conducting with Jean Morel and Jorge Mester. In 2009 he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the most prestigious honorary societies in the United States.

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