
Mariss Jansons
Chief Conductor

“The most important thing is absolute commitment to the orchestra.”



Photo: Marco Borggreve

With these words, Mariss Jansons described his role as chief conductor of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, a position he has held for the last five years. He is the sixth conductor to have held this post since the orchestra was founded in 1888. Originally from Latvia, Jansons studied violin and conducting in Leningrad, and continued his studies with Hans Swarowsky in Vienna and Herbert von Karajan in Salzburg. In 1973, Jansons was appointed Mravinsky's assistant with the St Petersburg orchestra, which Jansons's father Arvīds had also conducted.

From 1979 to 2000, he served as music director of the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, bringing it great international acclaim. He has made numerous appearances throughout the world as a guest conductor of the Berlin, the Vienna and the London Philharmonic Orchestras, as well as the leading orchestras in the US. He was appointed music director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 1997 and music director of the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in 2003.

He relinquished his post in Pittsburgh in 2004 to assume the position of chief conductor of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, having previously made guest appearances with the RCO practically every year since his first performance with the orchestra in 1988. Jansons has received various distinctions for his achievements, including the Star of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit, conferred on him by His Majesty King Harald V of Norway. He is an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna. Latvia's highest honour, the Three-Star Order, was conferred on him in 2006.