

JAMES JUDD

Conductor

Considered one of the pre-eminent interpreters of English orchestral music, British-born conductor James Judd has amassed an extensive collection of recordings on the Naxos label, including an unprecedented number in partnership with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, where he is Music Director Emeritus. His previous directorships include Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestre National de Lille in France and a groundbreaking 14 years as Music Director of the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra.

During his eight years as Music Director in New Zealand, Judd garnered much acclaim for his recordings with the orchestra, including works by Copland, Bernstein, Vaughan Williams, Gershwin and many others. He brought the orchestra to a new level of visibility and international renown through appearances at the 2000 Summer Sydney Olympic Arts Festival, the 2003 Auckland International Arts Festival, the Osaka Festival of International Orchestras, as well as a specially televised Millennium Concert with Kiri Te Kanawa as soloist. He also led the orchestra on its first ever tour of the major concert halls of Europe, culminating with a debut appearance at the BBC Proms and the Concertgebouw in August, 2005.

James Judd's live recordings of Mahler's Symphonies No. 9 with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra and No. 10 with the European Community Youth Orchestra received enthusiastic international praise, and his performance of Elgar's Symphony No. 1 with the Hallé Orchestra is still a highly-regarded reference standard among conductors today. He recorded Brahms symphonies with the Royal Philharmonic on the Tring label and continues to fulfill an ongoing project with the Naxos label of works by American composers Copland, Steve Reich,

Takemitsu, Gershwin, Bernstein and Bernard Herrmann as well as works by British composers such as Elgar, Lilburn, Vaughan Williams, Tippett and many others. James Judd is featured in symphonic repertoire on the Phillips, Nuova Era, Novalis, Capriccio and Pickwick labels; and complete operas by Meyerbeer and Donizetti on the Opera Rara label.

A graduate of London's Trinity College of Music, Mr. Judd came to international attention as the Assistant Conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra, a post he accepted at the invitation of Lorin Maazel. Four years later, he returned to Europe after being appointed Associate Music Director of the European Community Youth Orchestra by Claudio Abbado, an ensemble with which he continues to serve as an honorary Artistic Director.

Since that time, James Judd has led the Berlin Philharmonic and the Israel Philharmonic; he has conducted in the great concert halls of Europe, including the Salzburg Mozarteum and Vienna's Musikverein; and made guest appearances with such prestigious ensembles as the Vienna Symphony, Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig, Prague Symphony, Orchestre National de France, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, the Monte-Carlo Symphony Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, the Flemish Radio Orchestra, and the Mozarteum Orchestra of Salzburg.

As opera conductor, he has appeared with the English National Opera conducting productions of *Il Trovatore*, *La Traviata*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Rigoletto*, and *Le Nozze di Figaro*; and at the Glyndebourne Opera Festival in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. James Judd also served as Artistic Director of the Florida Grand Opera from 1993-1996. He made his U.S. opera debut in 1988 conducting *Don Giovanni* for that institution.

With his 14-year tenure as Music Director of The Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, Maestro Judd can easily lay claim to the creation of one of America's orchestral success stories. His musical vision and dynamic leadership have garnered him the title of South Florida's preeminent

cultural leader. The Florida Philharmonic's recordings, an all-Walton program and Mahler's Symphony No.1 including "Blumine," both led by James Judd, have been released on the Harmonica Mundi label to international acclaim. The Mahler CD was named "Recording of the Month" in *Stereophile*, received the Gold Medal from France's *Diapason*, and most notably, was awarded the "Toblacher Komponierhauschen" at the Salzburg Festival from the Gustav Mahler Society for the best new Mahler recording of the year world-wide.

He continues to conduct regularly with all of the major British ensembles, including the London Philharmonic, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hallé Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and the English Chamber Orchestra. He was co-founder of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, which he has led on tours throughout the United States, the Far East and Europe. In North and South America he is a frequent and much-admired guest conductor, having appeared with the orchestras of St. Louis, Montreal, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Dallas, Seattle, Indianapolis, Utah, Vancouver and Ottawa.

This season Judd leads concerts with the New Zealand Symphony, the KBS Symphony Seoul, the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony, the Vancouver Symphony, the Calgary Philharmonic and many others.

Maestro Judd recently led two successive summers of the Asian Youth Orchestra tour of Asia and returned this past season to the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the NHK Symphony of Tokyo, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and the Ensemble Orchestral de Paris.

Judd recently made his debuts with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and the Flemish Radio Symphony Orchestra of Brussels and also led the Philharmonia of the Nations in a special Karajan anniversary concert this past season as well.

During the 2006-07 season, Maestro Judd appeared with the KBS Symphony Seoul, in addition to performances with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. He returned to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the NHK Symphony Orchestra Tokyo, and made his debut with the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra.

James Judd's other recent successes include a triumphant return to the Haydn Festival Eisenstadt with the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Orchestra; guest performances with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and BBC National Orchestra of Wales; and highly acclaimed engagements with the KBS Symphony Orchestra of Seoul, the New Japan Philharmonic Tokyo, the Orchestre National de Lille at the Cite de la Musique Paris, and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

Maestro Judd currently resides in Florida with his wife Valerie and their daughter Carissa.