

Eliahu Inbal, Conductor

Biography

In Inbal, one can trace the clear traits of role models and teachers such as Franco Ferrara and Sergiu Celibidache; he possesses the strength for tranquillity and the sense to create unbridled passion and dramatic effect. (Die Welt)

Since winning first prize in the Cantelli Conducting Competition at the age of 26, Eliahu Inbal has enjoyed a career of international renown, conducting leading orchestras around the world. Over the years, he has been appointed principal conductor of the Frankfurt Radio Symphony (hr-Sinfonieorchester), Teatro La Fenice in Venice, RAI National Symphony, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Czech Philharmonic, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony, who named him conductor laureate in 2014. From 2019 until 2022, Eliahu Inbal served as principal conductor of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra and also became its conductor laureate in 2023.

During his tenure with the hr-Sinfonieorchester (1974-1990), where he is still honorary conductor, Eliahu Inbal distinguished himself with his outstanding musicianship. Based near Zurich, the charismatic Israeli conductor has garnered international acclaim for his interpretations of Mahler and Bruckner on a number of award-winning recordings (Deutscher Schallplattenpreis, Grand Prix du Disque), and was the first to record the original versions of Bruckner's symphonies. He has received special recognition particularly for his interpretations of Dmitri Shostakovich's symphonies.

In recent years, orchestral tours have taken Eliahu Inbal repeatedly to Japan and Spain; guest conducting engagements have brought him back to the orchestras in Monte-Carlo, St. Petersburg, La Scala in Milan, the Teatro Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, to the Brucknerfest Linz (with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin), and to the SWR Symphony Orchestra. In the 2024/25 season, he returns to the Taipei Symphony Orchestra, the KBS Symphony Orchestra, the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne, focusing on Shostakovich's big symphonies in the composer's anniversary year 2025.

He has conducted opera at such renowned houses as Paris, Glyndebourne, Munich, Stuttgart, Zurich, and Madrid, among others. He celebrated the 2013 Wagner anniversary year with highly acclaimed performances of Tristan and Isolde at the Festival de Opera de A Coruña and Parsifal at the Vlaamse Opera (International Opera Award 2014). Eliahu Inbal has also been awarded the national Italian critic's prize Abbiati and Viotti for his exceptional interpretations of Wagner's Ring cycle with the RAI National Symphony Orchestra.

Eliahu Inbal's extensive discography includes the complete symphonic works of Berlioz, Brahms, Bruckner, Mahler, Ravel, Schumann, Shostakovich, Scriabin, Stravinsky, Richard Strauss, and the Second Viennese School. He has recorded these works with the hr-Sinfonieorchester as well as with the Philharmonia Orchestra London, Orchestre National de France, Vienna Symphony, London Philharmonic, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and the Czech Philharmonic. His performance of Mahler's Symphony No. 10 (full version by D. Cooke), part of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra's Mahler cycle, was also released on DVD.

Born in Israel, Eliahu Inbal studied violin and composition at the Jerusalem Music Academy before completing his studies at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Paris on the recommendation of Leonard Bernstein. His teachers there included Louis Fourester, Olivier Messiaen, and Nadia Boulanger. He was also greatly influenced by Franco Ferrara in Hilversum (Netherlands) and Sergiu Celibidache in Siena (Italy). In 1990, the French government named Eliahu Inbal an officer of the Order of Arts and Letters. In February 2001 he was awarded the Golden Medal of Merit from the city of Vienna. He received the Goethe Badge of Honour from the City of Frankfurt and the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany in 2006.

2024/25 season

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