

CHRISTIAN KLUXEN

Conductor

Music Director: Victoria Symphony Orchestra
Principal Guest Conductor: Turku Philharmonic Orchestra



Now in his seventh season as Music Director of the Victoria Symphony in Canada, Christian Kluxen is also in his first season as Principal Guest Conductor of the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra in Finland, following a five-year tenure as Chief Conductor of the Arctic Philharmonic in Norway.

Kluxen has been described in the press as “a dynamic, charismatic figure” who “forms the music with an impressive vertical power of emotion and a focus on the grand form”, conducting “with exemplary clarity and a heavenly warmth”. He is recognized for his sincere and transparent leadership, innovative programming and his bold, imaginative and energetic interpretations, showcased both in his MD and guest work.

Alongside his many and varied commitments with the Victoria Symphony and Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, recent and forthcoming guest engagements include Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Pacific Symphony, Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, Copenhagen Philharmonic, Odense Symphony, and Norrköping Symphony. A fruitful and inspiring relationship with the Arctic Philharmonic, whom Kluxen led for five years as Chief Conductor, resulted in numerous exhilarating performances of a wide variety of repertoire, as well as several acclaimed recordings.

Born in Copenhagen in 1981 to Danish-German parents, Kluxen feels a natural affinity towards the Germanic and Scandinavian repertoire, particularly the works of Beethoven, Brahms, Richard Strauss, Nielsen and Sibelius. In 2020, he released a recording of Beethoven’s Violin Concerto on the Simax label, featuring violinist Henning Kraggerud and the Arctic Philharmonic. The disc was praised for its “surprisingly beautiful orchestra sound”, “kept in a slim, sober expression with a punch to it” and labeled as “almost too perfect” by the biggest Danish newspaper *Politiken*.

During the 2014/15 season, Kluxen held the Dudamel Fellowship with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, acting as assistant conductor to Gustavo Dudamel and Esa-Pekka Salonen. Prior to this appointment, between 2010 and 2013, he was Assistant Conductor at the Royal Scottish National Orchestra as well as a member of the “Dirigentenforum” of the German Music Council.

Kluxen has worked with major orchestras throughout the world, such as the Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, RTÉ National

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Symphony, Gothenburg Symphony, Malmö Symphony, Iceland Symphony, Trondheim Symphony, Strasbourg Philharmonic, Netherlands Philharmonic, L'Orchestra dell'Arena di Verona, in Australasia with the Auckland Philharmonia and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and in the US with the Oregon Symphony.

In his home country, Kluxen enjoys close relationships with several orchestras, including the Copenhagen Philharmonic and Odense Symphony, and in May 2019 he stepped in at short notice for concerts with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, replacing Yuri Temirkanov in concerts broadcast live on Danish National Radio.

On the operatic stage, Kluxen has conducted extensive tours of *Don Giovanni* and *Madama Butterfly* with the Danish National Opera, followed by his Berlin conducting debut with *Die Zauberflöte* at Komische Oper. In 2017, he led highly successful performances of *Die Fledermaus* with Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, and *Ariadne auf Naxos* (with soprano Lise Davidsen in the title role) with Arctic Opera and Philharmonic. In 2019, his focus was on Bizet's *Carmen*, which he led in two full productions; in Denmark at Opera Hedeland and in Norway with Arctic Opera and Philharmonic.

Kluxen's concerts have been broadcast live in Denmark, the UK, Sweden, Norway and Canada. His most recent albums with the Arctic Philharmonic are Lasse Thoresen's *The Sound of the Arctic*, which has garnered outstanding praise, including five stars from *Politiken*, and Eldbjørg Hemsing's concept album *Arctic*, recipient of Germany's Opus Klassik. He has received several prestigious awards and prizes, and in 2016 he was nominated by the International Opera Awards as "Young Conductor of the Year".

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