

OLLI MUSTONEN

Piano / Conductor

Artistic Director & Principal Conductor: Turku Philharmonic Orchestra



Credit: Heikki Tuuli

Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, Olli Mustonen has a unique place on today's music scene. Following the tradition of great masters such as Rachmaninov, Busoni and Enescu, Mustonen combines the roles of his musicianship as composer, pianist and conductor in an equal balance that is quite exceptional, often bringing them together in one fascinating triple role performance.

During an illustrious career, Mustonen has brought his extraordinary musical insight to many of world's most significant orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, New York and Los Angeles Philharmonic orchestras, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orkest, Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris and all the London orchestras.

Recipient of the 2019 Hindemith Prize of the City of Hanau, Mustonen's life as a composer is at the heart of his piano playing and conducting. Frequently bringing his own works to the chamber music stage, recent seasons have seen the World Premiere of his work *Taivaanvalot* (Heavenly Lights) for Tenor, Cello and Piano at Het Muziekgebouw, Amsterdam, performed by Mustonen himself, alongside Ian Bostridge and Steven Isserlis. Further performances took place at London's Wigmore Hall and in Hong Kong. A further World Premiere was his new string sextet, commissioned by the Beethoven Festival Bonn and first performed in February 2020.

Alongside his continuing work in Turku, this season he returns to Camerata Zürich several times, joins Prague Philharmonia, and RSO Wien for Martinu's Piano Concerto No.3 with Elim Chan. Further afield he returns to Brazil for his triple role – he conducts the Orquesta Filarmonica de Minas Gerais, performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No.25, and opens the programme with one of his own compositions – *The Old Church at Petajavesi*. With Steven Isserlis, he performs in London, Millan, Turin and Dresden.

Last season saw Mustonen officially commences his directorship of the Turku Philharmonic Orchestra where he was fortunate to be able to conduct regularly forming a strong connection with the musicians and exploring a range of repertoire from Beethoven to Bartok to Rautavaara. Elsewhere, highlights included performances of Bartok's Piano Concerto No.1 with Tonhalle Orchester Zürich and Paavo Järvi, and chamber music at the renowned Lockenhaus Festival in Austria. Spending a substantial amount of time in Finland, he also joined the Finnish Radio Symphony, Helsinki Philharmonic and Jyväskylä Symphony Orchestras amongst others.

As a recitalist, Mustonen has appeared in recent seasons at the Diaghilev Festival Perm, Dresden Festival, Cal Performances Berkeley, Symphony Center Chicago, New York Zankel Hall and Sydney Opera House. With Steven Isserlis, Mustonen has performed as a duo for more than thirty years. 2019 saw the release of their disc of Russian works for cello and piano on the Hyperion label.

Particularly close to Mustonen's heart are the piano concertos of Beethoven, Prokofiev and Bartok, all of which he has performed with leading orchestras. His repertoire also includes Respighi's *Concerto in modo misolidio*, which he has recorded with the Finnish Radio Symphony and Sakari Oramo on the Ondine label. He is completing his recording projects encompassing all of Bartok and Prokofiev's piano concertos, also for the Ondine label.

JAMES BROWN MANAGEMENT

Born in Helsinki, Olli Mustonen began his studies in piano, harpsichord and composition at the age of five. Initially learning with Ralf Gothoni, he subsequently studied piano with Eero Heinonen and composition with Einojuhani Rautavaara.

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