

An Estonian by birth and New Yorker by upbringing, Kristjan Järvi [www.KristjanJarvi.com] is among the foremost conductors of his generation. In November 2004 BBC Music Magazine named him as one of *10 Conductors under 40 Predicted to be Tomorrow's Maestros*. He is the Chief Conductor of the Vienna Tonkünstler Orchestra and Music Director of New York's Absolute Ensemble. The roles bring together two core facets of Järvi's musical personality: fascination with the new, born of respect for the past. Described by the New York Times as “*a technically adroit conductor and kinetic stage presence...[with] an impish smile that suggests he finds the job of smashing categories tons of fun*”, Kristjan's extrovert style and eclectic musical tastes make him a natural on stage.

Kristjan conducts the Tonkünstler Orchestra at both the Musikverein (the heart of Vienna's traditional music-making) and Festspielhaus, St Pölten, and is resident at the Graffenegg Summer Festival. While bringing renewed energy and vigour to the orchestra's central Austro-Germanic repertoire, Kristjan and the orchestra are also exploring the music of the present, including works by Austrian composer HK Gruber and Estonian composers Tüür, Tubin and Arvo Pärt. In 2005 Tonkünstler toured Kristjan's native Estonia as well as Latvia, Lithuania, Spain and the United Kingdom. Tonkünstler's upcoming tour plans include a further visit to the UK as well as Germany.

Kristjan is the founder and Music Director of *Absolute Ensemble* which, in the words of the American Record Guide ‘*may be the most alluring and virtuosic...of today's new music groups.*’ Since its inception in 1993, the ensemble has won new audiences by defying convention, eliminating barriers, and inventing an entirely new musical experience – a fusion of jazz, rock and electronica, all stemming from classical roots. Absolute Ensemble has been awarded the German Record Critics Prize for *Absolute Mix* and was nominated for a Grammy for *Absolution*. Its recent seventh record release is *Arcanum*. In addition to Absolute's regular residency at Musikfest Bremen, the Ensemble will tour Europe in April 2007 presented by the European Concert Hall Organization and will include concerts in Vienna, Athens, Luxembourg, Cologne, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, Stockholm and Birmingham.

Before moving to Vienna, Kristjan was based in the United States where, in addition to directing Absolute Ensemble, he was Assistant Conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra (1998-2000). He was also Principal Conductor of the Norrlands Opera, Sweden (2000-2004). His guest engagements have taken him all over the world, from the White Nights Festival in St. Petersburg and the Sydney Festival, to the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Hallé Orchestra, Marinsky Theatre, Japan Philharmonic, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Budapest Festival Orchestra, RAI National Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Russian National Orchestra, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, Detroit Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

Current and forthcoming engagements include re-invitations to the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Dresden Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and appearances with Tokyo Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony and Suisse Romande. Kristjan will be conducting John Adams's *Nixon in China* for Cincinnati Opera in 2007, and visiting the Bregenz Festival in 2006 and 2007 to conduct Offenbach's *Barbe-Bleue* and Benedict Mason's *Playing Away*.

‘The youngest Järvi made his mark in a deftly directed and brilliantly characterized unveiling of Nielsen's neglected Aladdin Suite, one of those pieces which, in a performance of this calibre, leaves you wondering why it is not more frequently programmed... The Infernal Dance [Stravinsky's Firebird] was electric, high-voltage stuff. Definitely hearing from this Järvi again; and I have a well-used fiver in my back pocket with which I'll wager that the RSNO players want him back.’

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