

Martin Georgiev Composer and Conductor

Martin Georgiev is an internationally awarded composer and conductor whose artistic activity connects the fields of conducting, composition and research in a thriving symbiosis. As a composer and conductor he has collaborated with leading orchestras and ensembles worldwide, such as the Brussels Philharmonic, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Bulgarian National Radio Orchestra, Heidelberg Philharmonic Orchestra, Sofia National Philharmonic Orchestra, National Orchestra of Belgium, the Azalea Ensemble, the Manson Ensemble, the Cosmic Voices choir and Ensemble Musiques Nouvelles amongst many.

Among the highlights was his tenure as Composer in Residence to the City of Heidelberg - 'Komponist für Heidelberg 2012|13' which featured, amongst several projects, his major orchestral work *The Secret*, commissioned by the City and its General Music Director, Yordan Kamdzhaliyov, which premiered in 2013 with the Heidelberg Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by the composer. Since 2013 he works as Cover Conductor for the Royal Ballet at ROH Covent Garden, London. In 2010-11 he was SAM Embedded Composer with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, London.

He was educated at the Royal Academy of Music, London, UK; and the National Academy of Music 'Pancho Vladigerov', Sofia, Bulgaria; holding a PhD doctorate in composition from the University of London and Masters' degrees in both composition and conducting. Born in the historic city of Varna, Bulgaria, he is based in London and holds both Bulgarian and British citizenship.

His compositions have been performed in the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, USA, France, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Japan, Mexico, Canada, Greece, Israel, Italy, commissioned by The City of Heidelberg and the Heidelberg Philharmonic Orchestra; The City of Varna; The Royal Academy of Music for the Mayor of London; Sound and Music for the BBC Symphony Orchestra; Varna Summer International Music Festival for the Sofia National Philharmonic Orchestra; Jessica Cottis and the Ashover Festival; AmBul Festival of American and Bulgarian Music for the Stankov Ensemble; the London Festival of Bulgarian Culture for the Forte Quartet. His works have been conducted by Michel Tabachnik, Fabien Gabel, Rossen Milanov, Jessica Cottis, Pascal Rophé, Vania Moneva, Franck Ollu, Gary Walker, Jacques Cohen, Dian Tchobanov, Keith Bragg, Plamen Markov, performed by Tatiana Koleva, Stankov Ensemble, Sarah Cresswell, Bertin D'Hollander; Valia Dervenska & Nadja Höbjärt, Ivo Varbanov & Fiammetta Tarli, Forte Quartet, Frosch Quartet, Carolyn Stuart & Svetozar Ivanov, Helena Nichols & Charlene Farrugia, Antonia Nikova-Georgieva and Raya Kostova-Humphries amongst many. His Chamber Opera *The Mirror* with original libretto by Marike van Aerde was premiered in London in June 2009 by the Azalea Ensemble conducted by Jessica Cottis, under the patronage of Lady Solti, Sir Charles Mackerras and Andrew Ritchie CBE.

Dr Georgiev has completed his PhD in Composition at the Royal Academy of Music, University of London, in 2013. His doctoral research with principal supervisor Dr. Philip Cashian and subsidiary supervision with Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Julian Anderson and Sir Harrison Birtwistle was supported by scholarships from the Wingate Foundation, Alan&Nesta Ferguson Trust and Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust. Central to it was the development of an innovative technique for composition, termed by him as Morphing Modality, which is a systematic approach to various aspects of the process of music composition, inspired by the technique of 'morphing images' from the visual arts, integrating fundamental principles from the theory and practice of Bulgarian-Orthodox and Byzantine Chant, and informed by music psychology, perception and cognition.

Georgiev is also a postgraduate Conducting alumnus of the Royal Academy of Music where he studied orchestra conducting with Colin Metters, Sir Colin Davis and George Hurst. He was awarded with the Fred Southall Memorial Prize for Conducting by the Royal Academy and scholarships by the ABRSM, the Royal Academy of Music, National Culture Fund of Bulgaria, the Municipality of the City of Varna and St Cyril and Methodius International Foundation.

He has also completed Masters' degrees in Conducting and Composition and Bachelors' degree in Percussion at the National Academy of Music 'Pancho Vladigerov' in Sofia, Bulgaria, where he studied with professors Plamen Djouroff, Krassimir Taskov, Tatiana Karparova, as well as a private ABRSM-structured programme with the outstanding Bulgarian composer and conductor Proff. Vassil Kazandjiev FBAS.

Martin Georgiev is a recipient of numerous awards for composition and performance. He is a laureate of the International Composers' Forum TACTUS in Brussels, Belgium, where his works featured in the selection in 2004, 2008 and 2011; the Grand Prize for Symphonic Composition dedicated to the 75th Anniversary of the Sofia National Philharmonic Orchestra in 2003; the UBC Golden Stave Award in 2004; orchestral commission prize in memory of Sir Henry Wood by the Royal Academy of Music, London, in 2011; he was a finalist of the Hindemith Prize of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in Germany (2011) and a recipient of 15 prizes from national and international competitions as a percussionist.