

LARS-ERIK ter JUNG **conductor**

After a substantial career as a violinist since his debut in Oslo in 1980, Lars-Erik ter Jung is now engaged full time as an orchestral conductor. He first took up conducting studies in 1998, initially with Jorma Panula, George Hurst and Kenneth Kielser, and later with Colin Metters, the latter still being his mentor, further developing his skills through masterclasses with professional orchestras around the world (Berlin, Brasov, Vaasa, Moscow, Vilnius and Belgrade).

ter Jung's experience as concertmaster of ensembles such as The Norwegian Chamber Orchestra under the legendary Iona Brown and the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, and from leading various chamber ensembles, now brings unique insight to his conducting work with a wide variety of repertoire that ranges from chamber, symphonic and contemporary music to opera and ballet.

He has conducted leading Norwegian ensembles including the Oslo Philharmonic, the Norwegian Radio Orchestra and The Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, the Oslo Sinfonietta and the Trondheim Soloists. For four years he was artistic director of the Sinfonietta at the Kristiansund Opera, which led to conducting iconic works such as Puccini's "*Madame Butterfly*" and Donizetti's "*Lucia di Lammermoor*". He worked regularly for a period with the BIT20 Ensemble in Bergen, and in 2000 he conducted the ensemble at the Darmstadt Contemporary Music Festival, and the following year Arne Nordheim's "Descending" at the cathedral of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. In 2002 ter Jung conducted the BIT20 Ensemble at the widely broadcasted inauguration ceremony of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt.

Partnerships with international festivals and the role as guest conductor have taken Lars-Erik to various countries, including concerts with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra, the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and the Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra (UK). He has also enjoyed residencies in Poland, with The Grazyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź and the PRIMUZ Chamber Orchestra. He has performed at festivals in Berlin, Stuttgart, Huddersfield, Copenhagen, Luxembourg and Lyon with the Norwegian contemporary music ensemble Asamisimasa – a partnership that also led to Norway's prestigious 'Spellemann' Music Award in 2012.

From 1992 until 2018 Lars-Erik was artistic director of the Telemark Chamber Orchestra, a regional ensemble which under his leadership built a fine reputation, also throughout the national music scene in Norway. He enjoys partnerships with numerous Norwegian music organizations, festivals, and institutions, which has also led to projects in the Barents region and concerts in Russia.

Lars-Erik has for many years taken a keen interest in new music. His innovative approach to programming and lively involvement in making numerous commissions, directing world premieres and CD releases with various Norwegian ensembles, clearly reflects his commitment to raising the profile of new music in Norway. Norwegian composer Magnar Åm is one out of many here to be mentioned, and in 2018 ter Jung premiered Åm's opera "*Kimen*" ("*The Seed*"). This music also initiated the album "*Kimen*", released in 2020, containing an instrumental version of the opera and introducing the terJungEnsemble. This led to the ensemble's concert at the Ultima Oslo Contemporary Music Festival in autumn 2020, and the work with this chambre orchestra is now, after the unfortunate corona break, being intensified and brought forward through new commissions, recordings and festival engagements – scheduled both at The Oslo International Church Music Festival and the Hardanger Musikkfest for 2022. The second album, "*Den annen sang*", where the ensemble works with the soloists Ingebjørg Lognvik Reinholdt and Åshild Breie Nyhus, came out in January 2021.