



KALLE KUUSAVA

Kalle Kuusava cemented his position as a conductor-to-watch when he made his debut at the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg in 2015, conducting Rimsky-Korsakov's *Maid of Pskov*. Since 2008 he has been employed as a conductor and coach at the Norwegian National Opera in Oslo. He has worked at Bayreuth as scholar of the Finnish Wagner Association and as an assistant conductor at the Zurich Opera Studio and at the Savonlinna Festival in his native Finland, where he appears annually. Kalle has worked closely with important Finnish conductors including Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Hannu Lintu and Mikko Franck, assisting the latter on performances with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

Kalle won the European Conducting Competition in Oslo in 2013, and was a prizewinner at the Evgeny Svetlanov Competition in Paris in 2014. He has conducted the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, the Tampere and Turku Philharmonics, the Jyväskylän Orchestra and the Kuopio and Vaasa City Orchestras as well as KORK, the Norwegian Radio Orchestra. He has also conducted the Orchestre d'Auvergne and the Tatarstan National Symphony Orchestra.

Future engagements will take him to the Theater an der Wien in Vienna where he will conduct *La Traviata*, to the Norwegian National Opera where he will conduct *Carmen*, to La Folle Journée festival in Nantes and to the Quebec Symphony and Ural Philharmonic Orchestras.

Kalle was born in Lahti, Finland, in 1983 and studied piano and chamber music at the Vienna University of Music and at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki with Ilmo Ranta. In Helsinki he participated in conducting master-classes with Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Jorma Panula, Stefan Solym and Ilan Volkov. He completed his postgraduate degree in orchestral conducting at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo under the guidance of Ole Kristian

Ruud and Are Sandbakken. Besides his conducting, he still appears as a chamber musician and lieder pianist.