



## CONDUCTOR / VIOLIST

Yuri Bashmet

### ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Through his virtuosity, strength of personality and high intelligence, Yuri Bashmet has given the viola a new prominence in musical life. The pre-eminent viola player of the modern age, he has motivated the leading composers of our time to expand the repertoire with significant new music. He is Artistic Director of the December Nights Festival, Moscow, Principal Conductor of the Novaya Rossiya State Symphony Orchestra, and is the founder/director of Moscow Soloists. He also appears throughout the world in the dual role of conductor/soloist. Described by The Times as 'without doubt, one of the world's greatest living musicians'.

### PERFORMANCES

His international career was launched in 1976 when he won the International Viola Competition in Munich. Since then he has appeared with all the world's great orchestras, including the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Boston, Chicago and Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, New York Philharmonic, London Philharmonic and the London Symphony Orchestra, which presented its own Yuri Bashmet Festival.

In December 2002 Bashmet became Principal Conductor of the newly formed Symphony Orchestra of New Russia, with which he has embarked upon a series of concerts in Moscow, with touring plans in Russia, Italy, France and the UK. Other orchestras with which he appears as conductor/soloist include the Dresdner Philharmoniker, Orquesta Ciudad de Granada, Tokyo Philharmonic, Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi, Camerata Salzburg, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and Brussels Philharmonic. He is also founder of Moscow Soloists, an ensemble he has performed with and directed throughout the world since 1992. This renowned chamber orchestra has been rapturously received in Moscow, Amsterdam, Paris, Tokyo, New York and at the BBC Proms, London.

In chamber music his closest collaborators have included Sviatoslav Richter, Gidon Kremer, Mstislav Rostropovich, Marta Argerich, Maxim Vengerov, Natalia Gutman, Jessy Norman and the Borodin Quartet. He formed a highly successful trio with mezzo-soprano Angelika Kirchschrager and pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet, showcasing music of the past and present for this unusual and evocative combination. Other recent chamber music projects include Beethoven trios with Anne Sophie Mutter and Lynn Harrell. He is a frequent visitor to summer festivals such as Elbe, Verbier and Martha Argerich's festival in Japan.

### RECORDINGS

Among his many CDs is a recording for Deutsche Grammophon of the Gubaidulina Concerto and Kancheli Styx, winner of a Diapason d'Or award and a Grammy nomination. Other notable DG discs are Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with Anne-Sophie Mutter, Brahms's Piano Quartet No 1 with Argerich, Kremer and Maisky, and the recently released Bartók Concerto with Berliner Philharmoniker and Boulez. For Onyx he and Moscow Soloists have embarked on a critically-acclaimed series of recordings; chamber symphonies by Shostakovich, Sviridoc and Vainberg; music by Stravinsky and Prokofiev (which received a Grammy award); and a disc of music by composers from the Far East, plus a recital disc of Encores with pianist Mikhail Muntian.

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

Yury Bashmet is a founder and a Jury Chairman of the International Viola Competition in Moscow and the President of the Lyonel Tertis International Viola Competition in Isle of Man. He is a professor of Moscow Conservatoire and Honored professor of Royal Academy of Music in London. Also he leads a master-classes in Academy Cigiana in Siena (Italy) and in Kronberg Chamber music Academy (Germany).

### EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Born in 1953 in Rostov-on-Don in Russia, he spent his childhood in Lviv in Ukraine before studying at the Moscow Conservatoire with Vadim Borisovsky (of the Beethoven Quartet) and Feodor Druzhinin.

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