

Ewa Strusinska – Conductor



Female conductors are still the exception and not the rule. That is changing however, thanks to a number of strong

musical personalities. One of them is without any doubt Ewa Strusińska, who in 2016 sprang right to 8th place on

Norman Lebrecht's „Slipped Disc Power List“ of the 20th best woman conductors – after only three years as Music

Director of the Szczecin Philharmonic and just behind such established veterans as Marin Alsop and Simone Young.

Those years between 2013 and 2016 changed musical life in the city. Under her direction the orchestra attained a previously unknown brilliance, which shone all the brighter in the magnificent acoustics of Szczecin's new Philharmonic hall, inaugurated by Ewa Strusińska in 2014. She made the best of the new venue in the center of town, intensifying co-operation with local schools of music and dance and expanding moderated concerts for adults, youth and children.

Having established the Filharmonia on solid artistic foundations, Ewa Strusińska has now become a regular guest with Poland's leading orchestras. In addition, her work with orchestras in Germany (Berlin, Rostock, Magdeburg, Frankfurt/Oder...) has made her reputation there and beginning with the 2018/2019 season, she will assume the position of Music Director of the Neue Lausitzer Philharmonie at the Gerhart-Hauptmann-Theatre in Görlitz/Zittau for four years.

In the season 2016/2017, she led a revival of Moniuszko's The Haunted Manor at the National Opera of Warsaw, and conducted the Warsaw National Philharmonic and Chorus. She also returned to the National Radio Orchestra in Katowice and to the Philharmonic in Opole, where she is now a regular guest. In Germany, she conducted the Landesjugendorchester Berlin in Berlin's Konzerthaus with great success, and led a new production of the Csárdásfürstin at the Magdeburg Opera, before presenting a French-Russian program with the Brandenburgisches Staatsorchester in Frankfurt/Oder.



In April 2018, Ewa Strusińska will conduct an Elgar/Bernstein program with the Jena Philharmonic. A French program is forthcoming with the Sønderjyllands Symfoniorkester in Denmark. Concerts in Poland will take place in Kraków with the Beethoven Academy Orchestra, in Bydgoszcz and Warsaw where Ewa Strusińska is a highly regarded and frequent guest of the Sinfonia Varsovia.

A very important aspect of Ewa Strusińska's activity is in the lyric field. She gathered wide experience with the repertoire at the Buxton Opera Festival in Great Britain, at the Royal Northern College of Music, at the Royal Ballet Covent Garden and then as an assistant in Warsaw's National Opera and Ballet from 2011 - 2013. Here she worked on not only well-known Italian and German repertoire but also on rarities like Stravinsky's *Le Rossignol* and Dusapin's *Medeamaterial*. In February 2018, she will return once again to the National Opera for the revival of *The Haunted Manor* directed by David Pountney. In 2016 she gave her debut at the Magdeburg Opera with Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty*, and in 2017 at the Gerhart Hauptmann Theatre in Görlitz with Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*.

Following her diploma at the Fryderyk Chopin Music Academy in Warsaw, she became known abroad as a laureate of the Bamberg Symphony's Conducting Competition Gustav Mahler in 2007. She appeared thereafter as a guest conductor with such orchestras as the Hofer Symphoniker, the Sinfonietta Baden, the Uppsala Chamber Orchestra, the Gävle Symfoniorkester, the Sønderjyllands Symfoniorkester, the Norrlands Opera Symphony Orchestra, the Slovak Sinfonietta, the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Northern Sinfonia and the Norddeutsche Philharmonie Rostock.

Ewa Strusińska has a particular commitment to getting music across to young people and to prepare musicians of the future. She works regularly with the South African National Youth Orchestra and previously was the Music Director of the Hallé Youth Orchestra. In Poland she created the International Lutoslawski Youth orchestra, designed to familiarize



young musicians with contemporary repertoire. Since 2006 she has taught at the Royal Northern College of Music and is leading conducting classes on different levels.

Ewa Strusińska is a wide-ranging musical figure, committed to works of the 20th and 21st centuries and fascinated as well by classical and romantic heritage. She has no fear of more exotic undertakings, be it Latin American music or Crossover programs with pop and jazz artists.

From 2008 – 2010 Ewa Strusińska worked as the assistant conductor of Sir Mark Elder with the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester and participated in numerous master classes led by Antoni Wit, Gabriel Chmura, Bruno Weil, Kurt Masur and Valery Gergiev with the London Symphony Orchestra.

Her recording with the orchestra of the Beethoven Academy (works by Moniuszko, Chopin and Lutosławski) appeared in 2015 on the label Delos.