

Paul McCreesh

Conductor



“How do you keep Handel’s great oratorio sounding fresh and relevant..? Hiring Paul McCreesh is one solution.”
Star Tribune

Paul McCreesh is the founder and Artistic Director of the Gabrieli Consort & Players which he established in 1982 and with whom he has toured world-wide and made many award-winning recordings. McCreesh is well-known for the energy and passion that he brings to his music-making, and is especially enthusiastic about working with young musicians and broadening access to classical music; he works regularly with youth orchestras and choirs and is active in building new educational initiatives whenever possible.

In 2019/20, he conducts Mendelssohn’s Symphony No. 2 and excerpts from Schubert’s *Rosamunde* with the New Japan Philharmonic, Haydn’s *Creation* with the Royal Northern Sinfonia, Handel’s *Messiah* with the Casa da Música Baroque Orchestra & Choir, Haydn’s *London Symphony* & Beethoven’s C Major Mass with Filharmonia Poznanska.

Last season he conducted works by Elgar, Haydn and Brahms with the Kammerakademie Potsdam, a programme of Elgar, Britten and Mendelssohn with the Bamberger Symphoniker, he returned to the Filharmonia Poznanska for some Rossini and Britten, and conducted performances with the MDR Sinfonieorchester at the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and the Basel Chamber Orchestra.

McCreesh has guest conducted many of the major orchestras and choirs across the globe, including most recently the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Bremen Philharmonic, Prague Philharmonia, Arctic Chamber Orchestra, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Bergen Philharmonic, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony, Verbier Festival orchestras, and Berlin Konzerthausorchester. McCreesh also enjoys regular and ongoing collaborations with Saint Paul and Basel Chamber Orchestras.

From 2013–2016 he was Principal Conductor and Artistic Adviser of the Gulbenkian Orchestra (Lisbon) with whom he conducted a wide range of music from the classical period through to the nineteenth and twentieth century, focusing in particular on symphonic repertoire, oratorio and opera in concert, working closely with the worldrenowned Gulbenkian Choir.

McCreesh has established a strong reputation in the opera house and has conducted productions at the Teatro Real Madrid, Royal Danish Opera, Opera Comique, Vlaamse Opera and at the Verbier Festival, and most recently he conducted Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at Bergen Opera, and returned to Vlaamse Opera for a production of *Idomeneo*.

In 2011, McCreesh launched his own record label, Winged Lion, in collaboration with the Gabrieli Consort & Players, Signum Classics and the Wratistlavia Cantans Festival, where he was Artistic Director between 2006 and 2012. To date they have made seven recordings, most recently Haydn *The Seasons*, released in spring 2017 and lauded by critics: “the communal sense of joy is infectious” (Financial Times) and “Glorious” (Guardian). Other highlights include Britten *War Requiem* (BBC Music Magazine Award 2014), Mendelssohn *Elijah* (Diapason d’Or Award 2013), Berlioz’s gargantuan *Grande Messe des Morts* (BBC Award 2012), and a reworking of his earlier Gabrieli disc, *A New Venetian Coronation 1595* (Gramophone Award 2013). The Winged Lion recordings build on his large catalogue of recordings with Deutsche Grammophon, which includes the Gramophone Award-winning Haydn *The Creation*.

Valid for use until 1 February 2020
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info@rayfieldallied.com