

# Pierre-André Valade

Conductor



“ in an account as polished as Pierre-André Valade and the Philharmonia delivered, the work showed its true colours: revolutionary, brazen, with a visceral and imaginative force”  
**Geoff Brown, The Times**

Pierre-André Valade was born in Corrèze, France in 1959. In 1991 he co-founded the Paris based Ensemble Court-Circuit of which he was Music Director until 2008. He was Principal Conductor of Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen from 2009 - 2014. He currently has an active career as a guest conductor whilst continuing his relationship with Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen as a regular guest conductor. He was also appointed Principal Guest Conductor of Lyon based Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain in 2013 and has held the position of Conductor in Residence at the Meitar Ensemble in Tel-Aviv since 2014.

He is especially admired for his performances of repertoire from the 20th and 21st centuries, and receives regular invitations from major festivals and orchestras in Europe, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Of his many recordings, Grisey's *Les Espaces Acoustiques* has been singled out for particular praise and won the Diapason d'or de l'année 1999 and the Grand Prix de l'Académie Charles Cros. His more recent recordings include works by Hugues Dufourt (winner Diapason d'Or and Choc du Monde de la Musique), and Harrison Birtwistle's *Theseus Game* for Deutsche Grammophon, a piece he premiered in Duisburg and conducted at the South Bank Centre, BBC Proms, Huddersfield Festival, Lucerne International Festival and in Berlin.

In the past few years he has conducted many different orchestras in a wide range of repertoire from Berlioz, Wagner, Verdi, Mahler, Ravel, Debussy and Stravinsky to Berio, Birtwistle, Carter, Lachenmann, Stockhausen, as well as numerous pieces by composers of the younger generation, notably composers of the French Spectralist school such as Hugues Dufourt, Gérard Grisey, Philippe Hurel, Philippe Leroux and Tristan Murail.

A regular guest conductor with the Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, other orchestras include BBC Symphony, BBC Scottish Symphony, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Philharmonia, Ulster, RTE National Symphony, Luxembourg Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, Göteborgs Symfoniker, Odense Symphony Orchestra, Norrbotten NEO, L'Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre de Paris, Ensemble MusikFabrik, Saarbrücken Radio Symphony, Athens State Orchestra, La Scala Orchestra in Milan, Montreal Symphony, Seoul Philharmonic, Tokyo Philharmonic, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Orchestra della RAI Torino, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia Rome, Teatro Carlo Felice Genova, Ensemble Intercontemporain, London Sinfonietta, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Bit20 Bergen, Bodo Sinfonietta, Contrechamps Geneve, the Asko Schoenberg Ensemble, I Pomeriggi Musicale, Luxembourg Philharmonic, Bilbao Symphony Orchestra, Polish National Radio Symphony and the Philharmonia's Music of Today series and Ensemble Modern.

He has conducted at the BBC Proms and has also appeared at the Aldeburgh, Bath International, Holland, Strasbourg Musica, Oslo Ultima, Monte Carlo Le Printemps des Arts, Nice Manca, Paris IRCAM Agora, Radio-France Présences, Perth and Sydney festivals, Nice Manca Festival as well as the Venice Biennale. He conducted the world premiere of Marc Monnet's opera *Pan* for the Opera National du Rhin Strasbourg. In the UK, recent highlights include performances of Stockhausen *Mixtur* with the London Sinfonietta, a portrait of Helmut Lachenmann with the Royal College of Music, as well as Fauré's *Requiem* and Verdi's *Quattro Pezzi Sacri* with the Philharmonia Orchestra. He participated in the 100th anniversary of Messiaen's birth conducting works in London, Wellington, Basel and Hanoi, and presented for the first time in Japan *Les Espaces Acoustiques* with the Tokyo Philharmonic at Suntory Hall. He has conducted Knut Vaage's *Khairos* for Den Norske Opera, as well as *Importance of Being Earnest* for NI Opera.

In January 2001 he was awarded Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture.

Recently, Pierre-André Valade's engagements have included performances with Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart des SWR, Norrbotten NEO and Chamber Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, Stavanger Symfoniorkester, Tonhalle-Orchester Zurich, London Sinfonietta, Ensemble Contrechamps, the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic and BIT20 Ensemble Bergen amongst others.

Highlights of the 2017/18 season include Grisey's *Les Espaces acoustiques* with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, as well as performances with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Bilbao, Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen, Croatian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra.

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