

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.

Recent and upcoming highlights included a return to the St Paul Chamber Orchestra to conduct Handel's *Messiah*, performing a programme of Parry and Mendelssohn with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and Haydn's *Creation* with the Minnesota Orchestra, as well as performances with the Gävle Symphony Orchestra, the Georgian Chamber Orchestra and the Stichting Omroep Muziek. McCreesh continues to join forces with Filharmonia Poznanska.

McCreesh has guest conducted many of the major orchestras and choirs across the globe, including most recently Casa da Música Baroque Orchestra & Choir, Kammerakademie Potsdam, Bamberger Symphoniker, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Bremen Philharmonic, Prague Philharmonia, Arctic Chamber Orchestra, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Bergen Philharmonic, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony, Japan Philharmonic, 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 world renowned 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 Wratislavia 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*.

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info@rayfieldallied.com

Rayfield Allied
9-12 The Stableyard
Broomgrove Road
London, SW9 9TL, UK
www.rayfieldallied.com
E-mail info@rayfieldallied.com
Telephone +44 (0) 20 3176 5500
Facsimile +44 (0) 700 602 4143

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