

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 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 to 2014, and still has a close relationship with the ensemble 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.

Pierre-André Valade is especially admired for his performances of repertoire from the 20th and 21st centuries, notably his interpretation of composers of the French Spectralist school such as Hugues Dufourt, Gérard Grisey, Philippe Hurel, Philippe Leroux, and Tristan Murail. He has received equal praise conducting a wide range of repertoire, from Berlioz, Wagner, Verdi, Mahler, Ravel, Debussy, and Stravinsky, to Berio, Birtwistle, Carter, Lachenmann, Stockhausen, and pieces by emerging composers.

He has an active career as a guest conductor and receives regular invitations from major festivals worldwide. He is a regular guest conductor with the Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, and appears with BBC Symphony, BBC Scottish Symphony, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Philharmonia, Ulster, RTÉ National Symphony, Luxembourg Philharmonic, Oslo Philharmonic, Göteborgs Symfoniker, Odense Symphony Orchestra, Norrbotten NEO, L'Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre des Pays de Savoie, Orchestre National de Lyon, Ensemble MusikFabrik, Saarbrücken Radio Symphony, Athens State Orchestra, La Scala Orchestra in Milan, Montreal Symphony, Stavanger Symfoniorkester, Seoul Philharmonic, Tokyo Philharmonic, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Orchestra della RAI Torino, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia Rome, Teatro Carlo Felice Genova, Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart des SWR, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Helsinki Philharmonic, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Bit20 Bergen, Bodø Sinfonietta, Estonian National Symphony, Contrechamps Genève, the Asko Schoenberg Ensemble, I Pomeriggi Musicali, Bilbao Symphony, Polish National Radio Symphony and Ensemble Modern.

He has conducted at the BBC Proms and Aldeburgh, Holland, Royaumont, Cervantino, Strasbourg Musica, Oslo Ultima, Monte Carlo Le Printemps des Arts, Nice Manca, Paris IRCAM Agora, Radio-France Présences, Perth and Sydney festivals, as well as the Venice Biennale. He conducted the world premiere of Marc Monnet's opera *Pan* for the Opera National du Rhin. For the 100th anniversary of Messiaen's birth, he conducted works in London, Wellington, Basel and Hanoi, and presented for the first time in Japan *Les Espaces Acoustiques* with the Tokyo Philharmonic and Boulez *Pli selon* with Tokyo Symphony, both at Suntory Hall. He has conducted Knut Vaage's *Khairós* for Den Norske

Opera, and *Importance of Being Earnest* for NI Opera.

Highlights in the UK include 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.

Of his many recordings, Grisey's *Les Espaces Acoustiques* has been singled out for particular praise and won the Diapason d'or in 1999 and the Grand Prix de l'Académie Charles Cros. His 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 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 reinventions to the Bergen Festival with Bit20 Ensemble, the Biennale di Venezia with Ensemble Meitar, Orchestre de Cannes, Tonhalle Orchester Zürich, Croatian Radio Symphony, Ensemble Court-Circuit, Athelas Sinfonietta. He conducted the premiere of *Proserpina*, Silvia Colasanti's new opera at the Spoleto Festival. In the UK, he returned to the Philharmonia to conduct Charlotte Bray's new triple concerto *Germinate* (world premiere), Hans Zender's *Cabaret Voltaire* and Philippe Manoury's *Blackout* (UK premieres), and conducted an evening of contemporary French works with the BBC Symphony at Maida Vale broadcast on BBC Radio 3.

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