

Adam Johnson

CONDUCTOR & PIANIST



Adam Johnson is one of the most versatile and exciting young musicians to have founded his own orchestra in recent years. The Northern Lights Symphony Orchestra, of which he is both Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, has attracted the attention of concert-goers in London since its formation in 2007 (*'Thrilling'* Classical Source, 2011). Unique among the outstanding artists of his generation, Johnson is as equally at home conducting opera as he is fulfilling the role of soloist in concerto repertoire, playing chamber music, or directing his own large-scale compositions.

Adam began his International Conducting career aged 16 at the Glinka Accademia, St. Petersburg, and has subsequently appeared as Principal Conductor of Elemental Opera, RNCM Opera, and as Guest Conductor of Southbank Sinfonia, Suffolk Sinfonia, Oxford University Symphony Orchestra.

Winner of the Ricordi Operatic Conducting Prize whilst still studying under Sir Mark Elder CBE, Adam Johnson was invited to assist Ari Benjamin Meyers on his multi-media contemporary theatre work *Il tempo di Postino* as part of the Manchester International Festival. His outstanding contribution to the production led the following year to associate conductorship of the London premiere of Jonathan Dove's opera *Flight* with British Youth Opera under Nicholas Cleobury. His subsequent operatic successes have included direction of Karol Szymanowski's rarely performed *Król Roger* and Benjamin Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* for Elemental Opera, a young innovative touring company with whom he enjoys an ongoing partnership. Last season Adam made his conducting debut at Wigmore Hall with the NLSØ.

A former scholar at the Royal Northern College of Music with the Sema Group Contemporary Performance Prize to his credit (for his performance of Lowell Lieberman *Concerto No.1* – *'a bravura...terrific performance'* Liebermann) Johnson continued his piano studies with Peter Feuchtwanger who described him as in possession of *'an excellent technique and full of fantasy'*. Also, the composer Oliver Knussen spoke of the *'extraordinary detail'* of his performances.

Adam was recently elected as a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, and as a member of the Royal Society of Musicians.

Future plans include developing an ambitious educational programme in inner London with the Northern Lights Symphony Orchestra, which enjoys a residency at St Saviour's Church, Pimlico. When time permits, he enjoys conducting and playing at the North Yorkshire Chamber Music Festival.

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