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Lars-Erik ter Jung, conductor

Working with the major Norwegian orchestras and ensembles, such as the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Norwegian Radio Orchestra, the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra, the BIT20 Ensemble and the Oslo Sinfonietta, has established Lars-Erik ter Jung as one of the most interesting and versatile of Norwegian conductors.

He held the position as principal concertmaster of the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra from 1982 until 1994. Along with being a guest leader of several Scandinavian ensembles and orchestras during the 1990s, this making him an attractive coach and artistic leader of various ensemble projects, as well as until recently doing freelancebased solo and chambermusicprojects, he has established himself as a conductor over the last decade - this now being his full time occupation. His conducting teachers have been Jorma Panula (FIN), George Hurst (UK) and Kenneth Kiesler (US) - the latter still being a teacher and mentor for ter Jung.

Lars-Erik ter Jung recently was appointed as Chief Conductor of the Kristiansund Symphony Orchestra, a semi-professional Orchestra in the western region of Norway. He will also work regularly with the Sinfonietta Ensemble of the Opera Company of Kristiansund. ter Jung is Artistic Director of the Telemark Chamber Orchestra, and he is also the Conductor of Sunnhordland Chamber Orchestra, the latter being an important project for recruiting young people to the world of classical music.

Commissioning works by Norwegian composers has been an important task for Lars-Erik ter Jung, in relation with different projects. Not the least he has encouraged this as being the artistic director of the Telemark Chamber Orchestra since 1992, with whom he has premiered a dozen commissions of various genres, among them a chamber opera by Jon Rörmark / Ragnar Hovland, given its first performance in 2004, and a violin concerto by Björn Kruse, presented with ter Jung as soloist on the CD "Nostos" (2005). In 2008 he gave the first performance at the Vestfold International Festival in Norway of the last orchestral work by renowned composer Antonio Bibalo, "Concerto da Camera no 3", commissioned by ter Jung and Telemark Chamber Orchestra. This happened just two weeks after the composers death.

Lars-Erik ter Jung has worked with a great variety of classical, romantic and modern repertory, reaching from Haydn and Mendelssohn Symphonies (with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra) to Thomas Adès' "Living toys" (in concert with The Norwegian Chamber Orchestra at the Ultima Festival) and works by Henze and Sallinen (with soloist Arto Noras and the Trondheim Soloists at the Oslo Chamber Music Festival); from Prokofiev's "Classical Symphony" (with Telemark Chamber Orchestra) and Dvorak D Major Mass and Fauré Requiem (with students orchestra and choir) to a programme exclusively with music by Norwegian composer Helge Iberg, including the first performance of his violin concerto "Tale of sorrowful song" and "Aren't we all warriors in our own lives?" (with the Norwegian Radio Orchestra) - to mention just a few works.

Five years in a row he has conducted full scale ballet with the orchestra in Tromsø. He has conducted the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra at several occasions, the Swedish Chamber Orchestra in two productions, as well as the Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra and the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra. He has had several broadcasted productions with the Norwegian Radio Orchestra. Conducting engagements in Norway, where he has worked with soloists like Arve Tellefsen and Martin Fröst, also include productions with the Kristiansand Chamber Orchestra and the five professional military wind bands, including the Staff Band of the Norwegian Armed Forces at several occasions, as well as orchestral productions at the Norwegian State Academy of Music.

In 2000 he conducted the internationally acknowledged BIT20 Ensemble at the Darmstadt Contemporary Music Festival, and the following year he conducted this ensemble with choir and soloists in Arne Nordheim's "Descending" at the cathedral of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. In 2002 ter Jung conducted the BIT20 Ensemble at the widely broadcasted inauguration ceremony of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and later gave the first performance of "Odyssé" by Norwegian composer Knut Vaage, now released both on CD and DVD. ter Jung had his first production with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra In 2008, and he was again visiting the orchestra last fall, doing Sibelius and Grieg.

In 2010 he released his 2nd CD with the Telemark C.O., containing a Haydn Symphony, a Mozart

pianoconcerto and Elgars String Serenade. The CD is now getting great reviews - so is his latest release, the CD "Pretty sound" with music by Danish composer Simon Steen-Andersen, with the Norwegian ensemble for contemporary music, Asamisimasa, conducted by ter Jung. His other recordings not mentioned above are "Dan fagreste viso pao joræ" (1993, music by Geirr Tveitt), "Quasi una Sonata" (1995, Szymanowski, Schnittke), "JKL" (1999, improvised treatments), "Hexa" (2000, ter Jung string sextet) and "Twitter Machine" (2003, duo violin and guitar).

Being a full time freelancer since 1994, Lars-Erik ter Jung took up a broader variety of creative tasks as a musician along with initiating and administrating a number of projects and concerts, especially within chamber music, as well as working for numerous institutions in Norway, among them the Norwegian Concert Institute. His varied activity as a violinist after his debut in Oslo in 1980 counts engagements as soloist with Bergen Phil. Orch., Oslo Phil. Orch. and the Norwegian Chamber Orch., and various performances at the main Norwegian festivals, such as the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, the International Chamber Music Festival in Stavanger, Ultima - Oslo Contemporary Music Festival and Bergen International Festival.

He built a small festival for various artistic expressions including chamber music, that was held annually at the old Monastery on the island Halsnøy on the west coast of Norway from 2005 - 2009.