

KASPARS PUTNIŅŠ | CONDUCTOR

Kaspars Putniņš has been Artistic Director of the Latvian Radio Choir since 2024. From 2020 to 2026, he was Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Swedish Radio Choir and held the position of Chief Conductor of the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (EPCC) from 2014 to 2021.

The Latvian conductor regularly appears with the RIAS Kammerchor Berlin, SWR Vokalensemble Stuttgart, Collegium Vocale Gent, Danish National Vocal Ensemble & Choir, Netherlands Radio Choir, NDR Vokalensemble Hamburg, Flemish Radio Choir and Choeur Accentus, most recently in Paris (Théâtre de la Ville), La Seine Musicale in Boulogne-Billancourt and Rouen.

Upcoming guest projects include collaborations with the Polish Radio Choir as well as return engagements with the Danish National Vocal Ensemble and the Flemish Radio Choir.

With the Latvian Radio Choir, he is staging the production “Siddharta”, based on Hesse’s novel with music by Caroline Shaw, which combines theatre, modern opera, Sufi chants and Indian dance. This coproduction by Ruhrtriennale and the Royal Flemish Theatre in Brussels will be performed from October 2026 to January 2027 at the Ruhrtriennale, in Antwerp, Riga and at the Centro Cultural de Belém in Lisbon. At the end of 2026, Kaspars Putniņš will tour Australia with the Latvian Radio Choir, in April 2027 the choir will be performing at Klangvokal Dortmund, Muziekgebouw in Amsterdam, The Hague, Utrecht, Eindhoven and Antwerp.

Whilst Kaspars Putniņš’ work encompasses a wide range of choral repertoire from the polyphony of the Renaissance period through to romantic music, his foremost goal has always been to promote new outstanding choral music. He has forged close relationships with many Baltic and Nordic composers including Maija Einfelde, Mārtiņš Viļums, Gundega Šmite, Toivo Tulev, Lasse Thoresen, Gavin Bryars and Andris Dzenitis and has set standards with his interpretations. Putniņš has initiated several drama projects in collaboration with visual and theatre artists.

His large discography includes recordings of Peteris Vasks’ *Mate Saule* for BIS Records, Jonathan Harvey’s *The Angels* for Hyperion, works by Bryars, Vasks, Esenvalds, Maskats and Silvestrov, all with the Latvian Radio Choir as well as the CD *New Latvian Harvest* with contemporary Latvian music with the Latvian Radio Chamber Singers.

BIS Records has released five albums with EPCC: Rachmaninov *Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*, Ülo Krigul *Liquid Turns*, Alfred Schnittke *Concerto for choir*, Arvo Pärt *Seven Magnificat Antiphons*, Franz Liszt’s *Via Crucis* and Arvo Pärt: Sacred choral works as well as an album with Schnittke *Psalms of Repentance* and Pärt *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis*, which was awarded the Gramophone Award and Diapason d’Or in 2018. He has also recorded Rachmaninov’s *The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom* with the Flemish Radio Choir for Glossa. BIS Records released Rachmaninov *Vespers* with the Netherlands Chamber Choir.

His album with Swedish Radio Choir, Schumann *Missa Sacra*, for BIS was awarded the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik 1/2024. The album *Angele Dei* with the Latvian Radio Choir and contemporary Latvian choral music was released in 2024 for Skani.

In 2025, a second album, *...a rивider le stelle*, featuring the Swedish Radio Choir and showcasing Swedish choral music, was released.

Putniņš has worked extensively with young singers and conductors in various projects and masterclasses, such as Bachakademie Stuttgart, Vocaal Talent, Meesters & Gezellen and Accentur Paris. From 2013 to 2017 he has been Artistic Director of the Tenso Europe Chamber Choir.

Kaspars Putniņš is recipient of the Latvian Grand Prix of Music and the Latvian Council of Ministers Award for Achievements in Culture and Science. For his devoted activity in the music life of Estonia as chief conductor of the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir Kaspars Putniņš was given the Annual Award of the Cultural Endowment of Estonia in 2019.

Season 2026/27