

KASPARS PUTNIŅŠ | CONDUCTOR

Kaspars Putniņš is Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of Swedish Radio Choir since 2020/21. He held this position with the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir (EPCC) from 2014-2021 and is permanent conductor of the Latvian Radio Choir since 1994.

The Latvian conductor regularly appears with the RIAS Kammerchor, SWR Vokalensemble Stuttgart, Collegium Vocale Gent, Danish National Vocal Ensemble & Choir, Netherlands Radio Choir, NDR Vokalensemble Hamburg among others.

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.

Forthcoming engagements include an appearance with Latvian Radio Choir at Early Music Festival in Riga and two performances with his choir and instrumentalists at Baltic Sea Festival Stockholm and on tour in Sweden featuring music by Tally, Nordin, Pollak, Jan Sandström, Lidholm and Larsson Gothe: Pigeons (world premiere) as well as a Bach-Holten-Hillborg-Pärt-Sibelius-Jersild-Sandström-Byström programme.

His 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. 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.

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.

In recent years, Putniņš has worked extensively with young singers and conductors in various projects and masterclasses, such as Bachakademie Stuttgart, Vocaal Talent and Meesters & Gezellen. From 2013 to 2017 Kaspars Putniņš 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.