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## Cem Mansur

### Conductor

*A conductor deserving of the highest hopes. His conducting is beautifully detailed and precise.*

Main-Echo

*Conducting without a score, Cem Mansur shaped a headily dramatic reading which had the orchestra at full stretch...Cem Mansur is a talent to watch.*

Opera Magazine



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Born in Turkey, Cem Mansur was educated in London at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama where he received the prestigious Ricordi Conducting Prize. He then went on to study at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute with Leonard Bernstein.

Fluent in Turkish, English, French, German and Italian, Mansur works regularly with major orchestras and opera houses across the world. He commands a particularly strong profile in Russia, enjoying frequent guest engagements with the Mariinsky Theatre at the personal invitation of Valery Gergiev, and conducting the company's inaugural performance of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. Other operatic highlights include his Music Directorship of the Istanbul State Opera.

Mansur's symphonic career has included guest engagements with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, and the London Mozart Players. He has collaborated with many distinguished soloists, including Dmitri Alexeev, Galina Gorchakova, Natalia Gutman, Håkan Hardenberger, Stephen Kovacevich, Christian Lindberg, Antonio Meneses, Midori, Shlomo Mintz, Alice Sara Ott, János Starker, and Murray Perahia.

Recognised for the creativity of his programming, Mansur's repertoire is extensive and includes many unusual and lesser known works. He conducted the premiere of Elgar's unfinished opera *The Spanish Lady* in London, and Offenbach's opera *Whittington* received its first performance since its nineteenth-century premiere under Mansur's baton at the City of London Festival in 2000. Cem Mansur also conducted the European premiere of Arvo Pärt's Symphony No.4 with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, and following this went on to give the world premiere of Pärt's *Veni Creator*.

Passionate about the importance of high quality music education, Mansur is the Music Director and Founder of the Turkish National Youth Philharmonic Orchestra. Formed in 2007, the 100 members – aged between 16 and 22 – are chosen by audition from Turkey's conservatoires. Under Mansur's leadership the orchestra has grown steadily in international profile and esteem, with performances at such prestigious venues as the Vienna Konzerthaus, Konzerthaus Berlin, Sala Santa Cecilia, Brucknerhaus Linz, BOZAR, Beethovenfest Bonn and the Ravello Festival.