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## Harish Shankar

Conductor

*"His craft is undeniable and he was a joy to watch as he exuded love and confidence".*



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Hailed for his exacting skills and passionate conducting, the charismatic Malaysian born Harish Shankar enjoys a growing global presence on the podium. As prize winner of the 2015 International Jorma Panula Conducting Competition, Mr Shankar holds the position of Junior Fellow of Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, where he received mentorship from Sir Mark Elder. From 2013 to 2016 he was Chief Conductor of the Harvestehude Sinfonieorchester Hamburg. The 2016/17 season will see him as Resident Conductor of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

Harish Shankar will make his debut with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in 2017 as part of their Bournemouth Pavillion series. Current highlights include his critically acclaimed debut with The Hallé at Bridgewater Hall and concerts with the Royal Northern College of Music Orchestra in Manchester. Previous appearances include Leipzig Symphony Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, Malaysian Philharmonic, Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, Jena Philharmonie, Vaasa City Orchestra, Staatsphilharmonie Braunschweig, Orquesta Sinfónica de Trujillo, North Czech Philharmonic and Jyväskylä Symphony Orchestra.

As assistant conductor he worked closely with a number of renowned conductors including Sir Andrew Davis, Vasily Petrenko, Eckehard Stier and Juanjo Mena and collaborated with the BBC Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Auckland Philharmonia orchestras. In opera Harish worked as both répétiteur and assistant conductor at Kammeroper Hamburg and Oper Kiel.

After graduating in conducting from the prestigious Weimar Conservatoire in Germany (under the tutelage of Professor Gunter Kahlert), Harish Shankar also received mentorship from Paavo Järvi, Clark Rundell and Mark Heron with masterclasses from Nicolás Pasquet, Leonid Grin and Mark Stringer.

Early studies with Eiji Oue subsequently led to an invitation to lead the orchestra of the award-winning *El Sistema* project in Peru. During his tenure with *El Sistema*, he conducted a number of regular and cross-over projects with the aim to engage a growing classical music scene and to bring together children from all walks of life through music.

A pianist by training, Mr Shankar took piano lessons from the age of six, continuing his studies before being accepted into the class of noted pianist Professor Konstanze Eickhorst at the Conservatoire of Lübeck.