**Semyon Bychkov**

Semyon Bychkov's tenure as Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Czech Philharmonic was initiated in 2018 with concerts in Prague, London, New York and Washington marking the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovak independence. With the culmination of *The Tchaikovsky Project* the following year*,* Bychkov and the Czech Philharmonic turned their focus to Mahler, and the first release in a new cycle of the symphonies - Mahler’s Fourth Symphony – on PENTATONE.

With a repertoire that spans four centuries, Bychkov’s highly anticipated performances are a unique combination of innate musicality and rigorous Russian pedagogy. He holds honorary titles with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Academy of Music and is a frequent guest with all the major international orchestras. International Opera Awards named him ‘Conductor of the Year’ in 2015 and, this year he will receive an Honorary Doctorate from the Royal Academy of Music.

Bychkov began his recording career with the Berlin Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio, Royal Concertgebouw, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonic and Orchestre de Paris. A series of benchmark recordings with WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne followed including the four Brahms Symphonies, as well as works by Strauss, Mahler, Shostakovich, Rachmaninov, Verdi, Glanert and Höller. Bychkov’s 1992 recording of Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin* was recommended by BBC Radio 3’s Building a Library in 2020, and his 2009 recording of Wagner’s *Lohengrin* awarded BBC Music Magazine’s Record of the Year (2010).

In common with the Czech Philharmonic, Bychkov has one foot in the culture of the East and the other in the West. Born in Leningrad in 1952, he emigrated first to the United States and is now based in Europe. In 1989, he was named Music Director of the Orchestre de Paris and also returned to Russia as Principal Guest Conductor of the St Petersburg Philharmonic. In 1997, he was appointed Chief Conductor of the WDR Symphony Orchestra and, the following year, Chief Conductor of Dresden Semperoper.