IVÁN FISCHER

Iván Fischer is considered one of the most visionary musicians of our time.

In the mid-1980s he founded the Budapest Festival Orchestra and his work as Music Director there has developed into one of the greatest musical success stories of the last 30 years. With international tours and recordings for Philips Classics and Channel Classics, he has earned a reputation as one of the world’s most celebrated orchestral conductors.

He has founded a number of festivals, including the Budapest Mahlerfest, the “Bridging Europe” festival and the Vicenza Opera Festival. The World Economic Forum presented him with the Crystal Award for his achievements in fostering international cultural relations.

He was principal conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, the Opéra National de Lyon and the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the latter appointing him Conductor Laureate. The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra named him Honorary Guest Conductor following decades of collaboration. He is a frequent guest conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and New York Philharmonic.

He studied the piano, violin and cello in Budapest, before joining the legendary conducting class of Hans Swarowsky in Vienna. Having spent two years as assistant to Nikolaus Harnoncourt, he launched his international career as winner of the Rupert Foundation conducting competition in London.

After various guest appearances at international opera houses, he founded the Ivan Fischer Opera Company. IFOC productions has been received with great acclaim in New York, Edinburgh, Abu Dhabi, Berlin, Geneva and Budapest.

Active as a composer since 2004, his opera *The Red Heifer* made headlines across the world; the children’s opera *The Gruffalo* enjoyed numerous revivals in Berlin; and *Eine Deutsch-Jiddische Kantate* his most frequently performed work, has been performed and recorded in several countries.

He founded the Hungarian Mahler Society and is patron of the British Kodály Academy. The president of Hungary awarded him the Gold Medal, and the French government honoured him as Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres. In 2006 he was decorated with the Hungarian Kossuth Prize, in 2011 with the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award and the Dutch Ovatie Prize, and in 2013 he was named an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Iván Fischer is honorary citizen of Budapest.