**Eric Solén, conductor**

Born in Sweden. He won the conductor competition organised by the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm, and after graduating from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm he conducted a considerable number of opera productions and performed with large and small orchestras in Sweden and internationally. He was a guest conductor with the Royal Swedish Opera in Stockholm, the Göteborg Opera, the Malmö Opera, Folkoperan, the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, the Swedish Chamber Orchestra and others.

Eric has also garnered success in several international conductor competitions, such as winning first prize in Spoleto, Italy; third prize in the Hungarian television’s competition for conductors; and coming in third place in Cadaques, Spain, where the jury featured Sir Neville Marriner.

With a focused aim of increasing his repertoire knowledge and artistic development, Eric Solén sought new challenges. In 2001 he took up the post of principal conductor at the state-run theatre in Oldenburg, Germany, and he has held the position of general director of music at Theater & Philharmonie Thüringen since 2005/2006. Eric thus became the principal conductor and director of music at the largest theatre in Thüringen with an orchestra comprising more than 80 musicians, which serves as both an opera orchestra and an independent concert orchestra. Eric Solén’s performances with this orchestra have included Stravinsky’s three ballets in concert form (The Firebird, Petrushka and The Rite of Spring); Shostakovich’s symphonies 5–8; Mahler’s symphonies 1, 2 and 5; as well as Nordic music by Sibelius, Stenhammar and contemporary Swedish composers. Eric’s notable opera assignments include Wagner’s Tannhäuser and Lohengrin, Strauss’s Ariadne auf Naxos, Berg’s Wozzeck, Verdi’s Othello, and Puccini’s Tosca and Manon Lescaut.

With his orchestra, he has recorded several CDs and taken part in radio broadcasts, such as European broadcasts by the EBU. Eric’s involvement in other media includes an hour-long programme made by the German-French television channel, Arte.

Eric Solén is an acclaimed guest conductor and has conducted orchestras in Germany, Finland, Hungary, Spain and Italy.