

Biography Rik Ghesquière

Rik Ghesquière is a versatile and dynamic artist who is regarded as a stimulating and sensitive conductor.

EDUCATION

Rik Ghesquière was initially trained as a trumpet player and took several diplomas at home and abroad.

In order to better manage the bowing technique, he took cello lessons for five years with Luc Tooten at the Conservatory of Mechelen. Rik studied jazz harmonization with Freddy Sunder, an important mentor for him, and improvisation with Peter Verbraken. Partly with the aim to improve his understanding of ancient music, Rik also followed cornetto classes with Marleen Leicher.

From 1997 onwards, Rik Ghesquière undertook orchestral conducting studies at the Conservatory of Brussels in the class of Norbert Nozy (Hafabra conducting), Lucas Vis (known for his meticulous conducting gestures) and Frank Shipway (inspired by the musical idiom of his mentor, Herbert von Karajan). In 2000 he completed his studies with a master's degree in orchestral conducting. In Mainz (Germany) he also attended master classes with Sylvain Cambreling.

CAREER

Since 1985 Rik Ghesquière is a member of the Brussels Philharmonic, the former Flemish Radio Orchestra. By 1997 and inspired by his collaborations as a trumpeter with numerous conductors at the radio orchestra Rik decides to fully focus on conducting.

Currently Rik Ghesquière is the chief conductor of the Vlaams-Brabants Symfonieorkest, a provincial orchestra from Zaventem as well as the city orchestra of his hometown of Lier, the Symfonieorkest De Lier. In 2014 and in cooperation with Orfeo Productions Rik created the Orfeo Chamber Orchestra with a group of young professional musicians.

Rik is also the conductor of the mixed choir Tourdion from Leuven and the Roosendaals Mixed Choir (Netherlands).

As a conductor of the "Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra" Rik Ghesquière completed a number of prestigious projects: the oratorio "Het Bronzen Hart" commemorating the 100th anniversary of composer Gaston Feremans and the Organ Symphony of Saint-Saens for the "Royal Cofena Concerts" in the Elizabeth Hall in Antwerp.

With the Roosendaals Symphony Orchestra and Roosendaals Mixed Choir he played The Seasons of Haydn, Mozart's Requiem and the Messiah of Handel and with the Orfeo Chamber Orchestra and the mixed choir Tourdion he conducted the beautiful requiem Eternal Light (2008) of Howard Goodall.

With the enhanced " Vlaams-Brabants Symfonieorkest " Rik Ghesquière realized the 5th symphony by Gustav Mahler, along with the soloists Luc Tooten (cello), Joris Van den Hauwe (oboe), Andrei Kavalinski (trumpet) and Abel Pereira (horn).

Thanks to his extensive orchestral experience, Rik Ghesquière has acquired experience with a broad and varied repertoire. We can mention performances such as the second and third piano concerto by Rachmaninov, the violin concerto by Sibelius, Beethoven, Bruch and Tchaikovsky, the Fourth Symphony of Schumann, all the Beethoven symphonies, the Planets by Holst, the second piano concerto by Franz Liszt, Carmina Burana by Orff, integral performances of The Magic Flute, The Marriage of Figaro and Don Giovanni (Mozart), Don Pasquale (Donizetti) and concert performances of La Bohème and Madame Butterfly.

Rik Ghesquière regularly conducts soloists such as piano virtuoso and laureate of the Queen Elisabeth Competition, Liebrecht Vanbeckevoort, pianist Nina Schumann and cellist Peter Martens (both from South Africa), horn player Abel Pereira (Portugal), jazz pianist Jef Neve, violin player Siripong Tiptan (Thailand), etc.

Several prominent composers such as Luc Brewaeyes, George De Decker, Daniel Capelletti and Dirk Brossé composed pieces for Rik and the orchestras he conducted.

Orchestras who invited him as a guest conductor include the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra (Thailand), the Thüringen Philharmonie Gotha (Germany), the Philharmonic Orchestra Gauteng (South Africa) and the Windworx Orchestra (South Africa).

Rik Ghesquière is strongly committed to promote classical music to young people. He has conducted the Limburg Orchestra "Youth and Music" from 2003 to 2011 and brought this young band to unprecedented heights. He also regularly realizes kids and family productions like Swan Lake, Peter and the Wolf, Carmen, Peer Gynt, etc. Fascinating family programs around Pucini's Tosca and l'Arlésienne of Bizet ("The girl from Arles") are currently on the drawing board. Together with composer Luc Brewaeyes he realized the "Bolero of the farewell," a program around Brewaeyes' "Shadows with Melodies" in combination with the Farewell Symphony by Haydn and Ravel's Boléro. With composer Piert Swerts he realized " Moeder zonder meer" a memorial to World War I for narrator, solo clarinet, chamber orchestra and ballet. The creation was conducted by Rik, in cooperation with clarinetist Eddy Vanoosthuyse and Ballet Vlaanderen.

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