

## Dirk Vermeulen

The Belgian conductor Dirk Vermeulen enjoys an international reputation, due to his remarkable performances of 18th century and early romantic music. However, he is equally at home with early, baroque and contemporary music, having commissioned and performed many new works.

His strong personality and insistence on acquiring the highest standards, have gained him general acclaim. He was hailed by the press as "a great musician" and a "highly sensitive conductor."

After having finished studying violin and music theory at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, he started a brilliant career, touring throughout Europe and playing as a soloist with leading conductors. He was also a Concert Master of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Flanders for several years.

In 1985 he decided to devote himself to a conducting career, studying with Julius Kalmar in Vienna. In 1991, he founded the Prima La Musica chamber orchestra, which was soon considered to be one of the leading Belgian ensembles. With this orchestra he has been invited twice at the Internationale Haydnstage in Eisenstadt.

Dirk Vermeulen has been championed by Frans Brüggen and was invited by him to conduct the Orchestra of the 18th Century.

Dirk Vermeulen appeared as a guest conductor with orchestras in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland and he has collaborated with many leading soloists such as Maria João Pires, José van Dam, Barbara Hendricks, Barbara Hannigan, Sabine Meyer, Janine Jansen and Isabelle Faust but also with jazz legends such as Toots Thielemans, Wayne Shorter and Diane Reeves.

He is a greatly appreciated opera conductor with much affinity for the operas of Mozart. He conducted 'Così fan Tutte' with the Krakow Opera and two different productions of 'The Magic Flute': with the Opera of Hagen (Germany) and with 'Opera Nova' from Bydgoszcz (Poland). He also conducted 15 performances of 'Zaide' with his orchestra Prima La Musica, touring through Holland. During the season 2012-2013 he has been leading two 'reprises': 'Così fan Tutte' and 'The Magic Flute'. Recently he conducted two new opera productions: Gluck's 'Orphée et Euridice' at l'Opéra de Rennes (France) and 'Le Nozze di Figaro' with Opera Zuid and Het Brabants Orkest (Eindhoven).

During the last two seasons, Dirk Vermeulen has been invited by the Wiener Concert Verein (Chamber Orchestra of the Wiener Symphoniker), The Symphony Orchestra of Murcia (Spain) and the Opera Orchestras of Wuppertal and Dessau in Germany and he replaced Frans Brüggen on a tour in Italy, conducting the Orchestra of the 18th Century.

In August 2014 Dirk Vermeulen made his debut with the St Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra during the Festival of Saas Fee (Switzerland), resulting in a new invitation during the season 2014-2015. During this season he will be making his debut with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra.

His discography includes over 25 CD's on the labels EMI, Vanguard Classics, Discover, Eufoda, Et'cetera, Brilliant Classics. His most recent CD with four concertos by the Italian contemporary composer Raffaele Bellafronte and performed by the Wiener Concert Verein, was released on the Italian label Tactus.

At present he is a professor at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels.

[www.dirkvermeulen.com](http://www.dirkvermeulen.com)