

Press release

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Alexei Ogrintchouk is the new chief conductor of Phion, Orchestra of Gelderland & Overijssel

On 8 May, Phion, Orchestra of Gelderland & Overijssel, announces that Alexei Ogrintchouk will be the new chief conductor as of the 2023-2024 season. The Dutch-Russian conductor and oboist has been a welcome guest conductor since 2020. He signs a contract for 3 seasons, in which he conducts 4 productions per season. Ogrintchouk succeeds Otto Tausk, who was Phion's first chief conductor between September 2020 and June 2022.

Phion is very pleased with the appointment of Alexei Ogrintchouk. "It is with an intense sense of happiness and pride that we welcome Alexei as our new chief conductor," says Joris Nassenstein, artistic manager of Phion. "Alexei is a brilliant, internationally respected musician and has been connected to the Dutch music culture for decades. He passionately brings us a wealth of musical insight and inspiration and perhaps most importantly: the astonishing power of the pleasure of making music together. We are moved by the eagerness with which Alexei wants to commit to Phion. Alexei has been a regular guest conductor with us in recent years and the chemistry between him and our orchestra was palpable for everyone. I am very much looking forward to our cooperation. The musicians and our new chief conductor will bring out the best in each other." In addition to his career as a conductor, Ogrintchouk will continue to be associated with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra as a solo oboist.

Alexei Ogrintchouk: "I am honored and very excited to take on this new role. I am deeply moved and thankful for the trust and am very much looking forward to this musical journey with Phion. This group of musicians continue to search for the highest possible musically and I am extremely motivated to bring out the best in our collaboration. We have some fantastic venues in Gelderland and Overijssel, and I am excited to connect and communicate our passion with a large and diverse public."

Between 12 and 21 May, Ogrintchouk will conduct six concerts with Barber's *Violin Concerto* played by Isabelle van Keulen, and Beethoven's Overture and Finale from *Die Geschöpfe des Prometheus* and the *Seventh Symphony*. Next season he will play an important role in the Beethoven Festival of Phion and will conduct the *Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth* symphonies. Together, Phion and the new chief conductor continue the Mahler tradition at Christmas, starting with the *Fifth Symphony*. Also on the program are Brahms's *Fourth* and Bruch's *Violin Concerto* with Liza Ferschtman.

Alexei Ogrintchouk

The Dutch-Russian conductor Alexei Ogrintchouk was already performing as an oboist all over Russia, Europe and Japan from the age of 13. Graduate of Gnessin Music School and Paris Conservatoire, Alexei is the winner of a number of international competitions including the prestigious CIEM International Competition in Geneva at the age of 19. He was also the winner of the European Juventus Prize in 1999, two "Victoires de la Musique Classique" Prizes in France in 2002, the Triumph Prize in Russia in 2005 and Borletti Buitoni Trust Award winner in 2007. He has been part of the prestigious Rising Stars and BBC New Generation Artists Programmes.

As a conductor Alexei Ogrintchouk has been conducting the Mariinsky Orchestra, St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Bruxelles Philharmonic, Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire, Lahti Symphony Orchestra, PHION, Orkest van Gelderland & Overijssel, Camerata RCO (Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra), Concertgebouw Chamber Orchestra, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, KREMERata Baltica, Orquesta Barocca de Sevilla, Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Riga Sinfonietta, Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Orchestre de Chambre de Genève, Verbier Festival Orchestra, Orchestre de Besançon, Orchestre de Picardie.

Since August 2005 Alexei Ogrintchouk has been first solo oboist of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam. Until then he held the same post at the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra - a position which he secured at the age of 20.

As a charismatic and technically brilliant soloist, he has performed concertos with the leading orchestras of the world under the baton of the greatest conductors. Alexei Ogrintchouk is named successor of Maurice Bourgue as oboe professor at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Geneve from September 2011. He is a visiting professor at the Royal Conservatory in the Hague since 2010 and he is giving numerous masterclasses worldwide.

Phion, Orkest van Gelderland & Overijssel

Phion, Orkest van Gelderland & Overijssel aims to be meaningful to as many people as possible with live symphonic music. Inside and outside the concert halls. There is something for everyone to discover at Phion. Visit www.phion.nl for more information.

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