

BRIAN SCHEMBRI

One of the most brilliant musicians to emerge from Malta, Brian Schembri started his music studies with his father Carmelo Schembri. He later graduated in piano and conducting at the Kiev and Moscow “Tchaikovsky” Conservatories studying with A. Snegiriov, S. Dorensky, R. Kofman and G. Rozhdestvensky.

While still very actively performing as a concert pianist, he started working as assistant conductor with Michel Plasson and Emmanuel Krivine. Eventually dedicating most of his time to conducting, he became Chief Conductor of the OPF Orchestra and the Orquestra Metropolitana de Lisboa, Music Director at Malta National Theatre “Teatru Manoel” and Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra. Brian SCHEMBRI has been awarded the Malta Cultural Award and the Medal for Service to the Republic.

He has been guest conductor with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, l'Orquestra Ciutat Barcelona, l'Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, l'Orchestre Nationale de Radio France, the Lithuanian State Symphony, the Novosibirsk Philharmonic, London Mozart Players, l'Orchestre National de Lyon, London Philharmonic, Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, the Svetlanov State Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Opera, Lubeck, Nancy and Rennes opera theatres. He has participated in the “Festival Massenet”, “Octobre en Normandie”, “Les Rencontres Musicales d'Evian”, “Lisboa em Festa”, “Kings Lynn Festival” and “Henley Festival”.

His CD recordings include a CD Piano Recital of sonatas by Beethoven, Schubert and Rachmaninov and other CDs of works by Charles Camilleri with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (Divine Art Diversions DDV24126), Bach concertos with the European Union Chamber Orchestra (Divine Art DDA 25128) and Tansman concertos with Diego Dini Ciacci and Fabrizio Meloni (CPO 555 079-2).

Receiving critical acclaim as an artist of high caliber for his strongly passionate and lyrical performances, he has forged a strong reputation for a moving profound musicality.

(updated March 2018)

Press comments :

*“The Malta Philharmonic Orchestra under Brian Schembri's direction is simply stunning...» - Tansman CD CPO (**Ihr Opernratgeber, Sven Godenrath**)*

*“Brian Schembri, the chief conductor, made it obvious that he did not only have the score of Beethoven's “Eroica” in his head but also in his fingertips. And so we heard with rather quick tempi warm colour mixtures, many dynamic shades, intensive tensions and only rarely too powerful sound concentrations.” (**Kleine Zeitung Kärnten, Austria**)*

*“With Schembri we are in the presence of an eloquent musician in whom is combined humanity and high art, whose music-making is compassionate, yielding, grand... His way of holding a piece together, his shaping and masking of a composer's joins, his generation of dramatic tension and repose, reminded me of passed greats, of other worlds long ago.” (**Sunday Times of Malta, Ateş Orga**)*

*“...These sparkling performances from Brian Schembri and the excellent Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra could not be more stylish or persuasively spontaneous, and the vividly atmospheric recording is first rate.” (**Gramophone Magazine, Ivan March**)*

*“...as soon as the curtain rises we are sure of success with Brian Schembri's clear and secure conducting...” (**Opera International**)*

*“The Lübeck Philharmonic Orchestra under guest conductor Brian Schembri resuscitated the score to its full flourishing beauty, ... without exaggeration, a triumph for the Theater Lübeck and once again proof of the enormous capacity of the ‘smaller’ houses!” (**Der Opernfreund**)*

*“...Brian Schembri with his nervous baton, his guiding gestures full of complicity and warmth, deserves a general bravo all for himself...” (**La Tribune Le Progres, France**)*

*“...it was a great interpretation...a great symphonic concert...clearly the best concert of the season and the best event of all the Portuguese lyrical season.” (**Crítica de Música - Álvaro Sérgio Teixeira**)*

*“...the Hong Kong Philharmonic would not be so beautiful without Brian Schembri's conducting and also Maestro Schembri's engagement with singer's performance make this show beautiful and impressive”. (**Wen Wei Po**)*

*“The audience was swept away by music, staging and cast into the maelstrom between dream and reality. ... An enjoyment of art through space and eras, the Lübeck Philharmonic conducted by Brian Schembri at times tender at others, masterly powerful” (**Schleswig Holstein Sunday**)*