

ALUN FRANCIS

BIOGRAPHY

ALUN FRANCIS has, in the last 40 years, conducted more than 200 orchestras and opera ensembles in more than 30 different countries. He appears regularly in the music capitals of Europe - Amsterdam, Berlin, London and Milan.

1966 - 1976	Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Ulster Orchestra and the Northern Ireland Opera Trust
1976 - 1978	Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Iranian National Opera in Teheran
1978 - 1984	Music Director of the NEPAC Opera in Durban
1979 - 1985	Music Director of the Northwest Chamber Orchestra in Seattle U.S.A.
1985 - 1988	Mr. Francis was Chief Conductor of the Opera Forum in The Netherland
1987 - 1991	Principal Conductor and Generalmusikdirektor of the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie
1990 - 1994	Principal Conductor of the Haydn Orchestra Bolzano/ Trento in Italy
1989 - 1996	Chief Conductor of the Berliner Symphoniker
1996 - 1999	Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano 'Giuseppe Verdi'
2002 - 2004	Permanent Guest Conductor, Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra.
2003 - 2008	Chief Conductor of the Thüringen Philharmonie
2007 - 2010	Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the OFUNAM - Orquest Filarmonica de la UNAM / Mexico City

Alun Francis regularly conducts concerts and Compact-Disc recordings with the Italian Radio Orchestra (RAI) Turin, the Kölner Rundfunk-Sinfonie Orchester, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Frankfurter-Radio-Sinfonie-Orchester, Norddeutscher Rundfunk (NDR) Hannover, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Saarbrücken, the Radio Sinfonie Orchester Basel, the Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Swedish National Radio Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic, the Rundfunk Sinfonie Orchester, Berlin, the Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, and the SWR Rundfunkorchester, Kaiserslautern.

In January 2000 Alun Francis won the first Prize of the 'CANNES CLASSICAL AWARDS ' presented at MIDEM 2000 in the category of CD Premiers, for his recordings of the complete symphonies of Darius Milhaud.

His recordings with the London Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the English Chamber Orchestra and the London Mozart Players have won much critical acclaim, including the LONDON SUNDAY TIMES, 'Best Classical Recording of 1983'.

Mr. Francis has conducted all the major orchestras in Great Britain - the BBC Orchestras, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Scottish National Orchestra, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and the Halle Orchestra.

Highly regarded as a conductor of Bel Canto opera, Alun Francis was invited to direct the world premiere of DONIZETTI'S 'Gabriella di Vergy' in London in 1978. At the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, Alun Francis directed 'Rigoletto' in a Roman Polanski production. His Opera repertoire includes over 70 different operas.

Apart from his classical repertoire, Alun Francis is a noted specialist in 20th. century music, with a repertoire which ranges from Berio and Stockhausen to a sizeable number of world premiers.

As a composer, Alun Francis has written works for concert hall, theatre and films, which are published in London and New York.