



Photo by Mark McNulty

Vasily Petrenko conductor

Vasily Petrenko took up the post of Principal Conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in September 2006; his contract has recently been extended until 2012. He was Chief Conductor of the State Academy Orchestra of St Petersburg between 1994 and 2007.

Born in 1976, he started his music education at the St Petersburg Capella Boys Music School – the oldest music school in Russia. He then studied at the St Petersburg Conservatoire and has also participated in masterclasses with such major figures as Ilya Musin, Mariss Jansons, Yuri

During the last few years Vasily Petrenko has had considerable success in a number of international conducting competitions including Second Prize in the Fourth Prokofiev Conducting Competition in St Petersburg (2003), First Prize in the Shostakovich Choral Conducting Competition in St Petersburg (1997) and First Prize in the Sixth Cadaqués International Conducting Competition in Spain (2002).

Between 1994 and 1997, Petrenko was Resident Conductor at the St Petersburg State Opera and Ballet Theatre in the Mussorgsky Memorial Theatre. During this time he gained an enormous amount of operatic experience and he now has over 30 operas in his repertoire. In March 2004 he made a highly successful debut at the Hamburg State Opera conducting Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame*. During recent seasons Petrenko has conducted many key orchestras in Russia including the St Petersburg Philharmonic and the Moscow Philharmonic.

Petrenko is equally at home in symphonic and operatic repertoire. On the symphonic front, he has previously worked with the City of Birmingham and Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestras, Ensemble Orchestral de Paris and NDR Hanover. Return engagements have included concerts with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and the Cadaqués and Castille y Leon Orchestras in Spain.

In the current season, he makes his debut performance with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducts the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and returns to the Rotterdam Philharmonic. In the 2008-09 season, he conducts a BBC Prom with the RLPO, conducts the European Union Youth Orchestra and makes his debut with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic and Budapest Festival Orchestras. After making a highly successful US debut last season in Milwaukee and Indianapolis, he has consequently been invited to conduct the Dallas, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Atlanta Symphony Orchestras.

As an opera conductor, he has worked in recent seasons with the Reisopera in The Netherlands on three productions (Puccini's *Le Villi* and *Messa da Gloria*, Verdi's *I due Foscari* and Mussorgsky's *Boris Godounov*); he will be conducting Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* at the Opera de Bastille in the 2010-11 season.