

Willem de Bordes – Conductor

Willem de Bordes studied conducting with the legendary Professor Jorma Panula in Finland. For his studies he received scholarships from the Dutch National Kersjes Foundation for young conductors. In 2012 Sir Mark Elder invited Willem to assist him in projects with the Radio Philharmonic and the Rotterdam Philharmonic. Since then he has worked as an assistant conductor to Daniel Harding and Yannick Nézet-Séguin with the Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Netherlands Philharmonic. In 2013 he worked with the composer/conductor George Benjamin and Franck Ollu on the production of the highly acclaimed new opera “Written on Skin” at the National Opera in Amsterdam. Most recently Ivan Fischer has invited him to assist him for a project.

In the past seasons Willem conducted orchestras such as Vaasa Chamber Orchestra, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Pori Sinfonietta, Athens State Symphony Orchestra and the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra. In September 2012 Willem succeeded conductor Gustavo Gimeno as principal conductor of the Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra “Con Brio”. With his orchestra he has conducted concerts including concertos by Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, Rachmaninov and Beethoven as well as symphonic works by Sibelius, Beethoven, Mussorgsky, Borodin, Stravinsky, Ravel, Debussy and Shostakovich as well as choral works like Mozart Requiem, Bernstein Chichester Psalms, Poulenc Gloria, and Villa Lobos Choros X. This season he will conduct them in programs, which will include works by Adams, Ives, Milhaud and Ginastera. Willem has considerable experience in conducting contemporary repertoire with ensembles like Amsterdam Sinfonietta, the Biennale Ensemble and the American Cello Band in works by composers such as Hans Werner Henze, Tristan Keuris, Ivan Fedele and Ulfar Pulkkis with soloists like Jean-Guihen Queyras, Candida Thompson, Lavinia Meyer and Raphael Wallfisch.

Future engagements include conducting debuts in Turkey and Switzerland.

Willem holds a degree in master of music, having studied the violin with Lex Korff de Gidts and Alexander Kerr. He attended masterclasses with Viktor Lieberman, Milan Skampa, Thomas Brandis, Charles-Andre Linale and baroque and classical performance by Viola de Hoog and Jurgen Kussmaul. He also holds a degree in Master in Law and has lectured at the faculties of Law and Economics of the University of Amsterdam.