



Gilbert Varga, son of the celebrated Hungarian violinist, Tibor Varga, studied under three very different and distinctive maestros: Franco Ferrara, Sergiu Celibidache and Charles Bruck. Renowned for his commanding and elegant baton technique, Varga has held positions with and guest conducted many of the major orchestras throughout the world. In the earlier part of his conducting career Varga concentrated on work with chamber orchestras, particularly the Tibor Varga Chamber Orchestra, before rapidly developing a reputation as a symphonic conductor. He was Chief Conductor of the Hofer Symphoniker between 1980 and 1985 and from 1985 to 1990 he was Chief Conductor of the Philharmonia Hungarica in Marl, conducting their debut tour to

Hungary with Yehudi Menuhin. In 1991 Varga took up the position of Permanent Guest Conductor of the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra until 1995, and from 1997 to 2000 was Principal Guest of the Malmö Symphony. In 1997 Varga was appointed Music Director of the Basque National Symphony Orchestra, leading them through ten seasons, including tours across the UK, Germany, Spain and South America. Varga has conducted many of Europe's major orchestras; in the recent and forthcoming seasons these include regular engagements with orchestras such as the Oslo Philharmonic, Berlin Radio Symphony, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, MDR Leipzig, Cologne's Gürzenich, Hungarian National Philharmonic, Spanish National, Frankfurt Museumgesellschaft and the Berlin Konzerthaus Orchestra. In North America, Varga made his debut with the Minnesota Orchestra in 2002 and has since developed a flourishing and long-standing relationship with the orchestra which sees him returning there every season. In 2005 he made a highly successful debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and in recent seasons Varga has made debuts with several of the other major orchestras, such as Atlanta, St Louis, Dallas and Indianapolis, and in the coming seasons he looks forward to debuts in Seattle and Baltimore amongst others. Further afield, Varga returned to South East Asia in 2008 to make his debut with the Malaysian Philharmonic and later in 2009 he will conduct the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. Varga's discography includes recordings with ASV, Discover Records, Tring (The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Collection), Koch International (Munich Chamber Orchestra and Bamberg Symphony) and Claves Recordings (The Basque National Orchestra).

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