

## BIOGRAPHY

**MARIUSZ SMOLIJ** is considered one of the most consummate orchestral conductors of his generation. A frequent recording artist for Naxos International, he has been consistently gaining international critical acclaim, including praise from *The New York Times* for “compelling performances.” Maestro Smolij has led over 130 orchestras in 28 countries on five continents, appearing in some of the world’s most prestigious concert halls. In North America, he has conducted, among many others, the Houston Symphony, the New Jersey Symphony, the Orchestra of the Chicago Lyric Opera, the St. Louis Philharmonic, the Rochester Philharmonic, the Indianapolis Symphony, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the New Orleans Philharmonic, the Hartford Symphony and the Symphony Nova Scotia. Internationally, he enjoys a notable reputation, appearing with important symphonic ensembles in Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland, Holland, Israel, China, South Africa, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic and Poland.

Maestro Smolij has appeared on many of the world’s most prestigious concert stages, including Carnegie Hall, New York’s Lincoln Center, Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, *Salle Gaveau* in Paris, *Tonhalle* in Zürich, Bunka Hall in Tokyo, ABC Hall in Johannesburg, the National Art Center in Beijing as well as national concert halls in Poland, Israel, South Korea, Mexico, Serbia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Cyprus, Bolivia and Colombia. He has been invited to conduct at numerous prestigious music festivals including the *Rbeingan Musik Festival* in Germany, the Chorin Festival in Germany, Janáček May in the Czech Republic, *La Folle Journée* Festival in France, and the Autumn Festival at the National Art Center in Beijing, China. He has collaborated with many prominent artists of the current and past decades, including Luciano Pavarotti, Yo-Yo Ma, Joshua Bell, Jaimie Laredo, Joseph Kalichstein, Stephen Hough, Ilya Kaler, the Cleveland Quartet, Qin Li-Wei and Piotr Paleczny among many others.

Maestro Smolij is currently Music Director of the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra in Lafayette, Louisiana, and serves as Music Director of the Riverside Symphonia in New Jersey. He is also Artistic Director of the Karol Lipiński International Festival and Violin Competition in Poland. Between 2016 and 2019 he served as Artistic Director of the Toruń Symphony Orchestra in Poland. He is also a former Artistic Director of the Lutosławski Philharmonic in Wrocław (currently the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic), as well as the International Festival *Wratistlavia Cantans* in Poland.

The conductor has been regularly recording for leading international labels for almost two decades. His recordings issued for Naxos, Universal and Hungaraton have been consistently met by high international critical praise. Among them are numerous recording world premieres by Eastern European composers. His CD of music by Polish female composer Grażyna Bacewicz with *Capella Bydgostiensis* in Poland, released in November 2014, received a “Fryderyk Award,” the Polish equivalent of an American Grammy.