

# *Stilian Kirov*

**Conductor**



First Prize Winner of the 2017 “Debut Berlin” Concert Competition, *Stilian Kirov* made his debut in June with the German National Orchestra at Berlin Philharmonic Hall. He returned to the U.S. to begin the 2017/2018 season as the newly-appointed Music Director of the Illinois Philharmonic in Chicago’s Southland. He will continue his music directorships with the Bakersfield Symphony in California and New Jersey’s Symphony in C. Recipient of a Solti Foundation U.S. Career Assistance Award in 2016 and 2017, Mr. Kirov has proven to be not only a dynamic artistic director, but also an enthusiastic educator and community leader, continuing to build upon his previous successes as Associate Conductor of the Seattle Symphony and Associate Conductor of the Memphis Symphony.

Highlights of *Mr. Kirov’s* 2018/2019 season include debuts with the Omaha Symphony and Minas Gerais Philharmonic in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, as well as a return to the Chautauqua Festival. Other recent engagements include guest appearances

with the Kalamazoo Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra/Breckenridge, and the symphonies of Amarillo, South Bend, Tucson, Venice (Florida), and West Virginia. Following his highly acclaimed debut in 2012, he also appears regularly as guest conductor with the Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle.

During the 2013/2014 season, *Stilian Kirov* was engaged as an assistant conductor to Bernard Haitink with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as well as a cover conductor for Stéphane Denève, the late Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Christoph von Dohnányi, and Andrew Davis, all with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Also during that season, he stepped in to replace Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos with the Seattle Symphony, conducting “spectacular” performances of Orff’s *Carmina Burana*.

Worldwide, *Mr. Kirov* has appeared with the Leopold Chamber Orchestra/Ukraine, Orchestra of Colors/Athens, Orchestre Colonne/Paris, Sofia Festival Orchestra, State Hermitage Orchestra/St. Petersburg, Thüringen Philharmonic Orchestra, the Zagreb Philharmonic, the Musical Olympus International Festival in St. Petersburg, and the Victoria Symphony/British Columbia, to name a few.

A prize winner at Denmark’s 2015 Malko Competition, *Stilian Kirov* is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, including an Emmy for the Memphis Symphony’s Soundtrack Project, the Orchestra Preference Award, and Third Prize at the 2010 Mitropoulos Conducting Competition, as well as Juilliard’s Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship and the Charles Schiff Conducting Award for outstanding achievement. He is also the recipient of France’s 2010 ADAMI Conducting Prize, culminating in a showcase concert at the Salle Gaveau with the Orchestre Colonne. Following the performance, Mr. Kirov was invited to conduct the orchestra’s opening concerts of the 2011/2012 season in Paris.

*Mr. Kirov* is a graduate of The Juilliard School in orchestral conducting, where he was a student of James DePreist. In 2012, he studied at the Aspen Academy of Conducting, and in 2013, was one of two Conducting Fellows at the Tanglewood Music Center. In 2010, he was awarded the Chautauqua Music Festival's David Effron Conducting Fellowship, and returned in 2012 as a guest conductor with the festival orchestra. Mr. Kirov holds a master's degree in conducting from the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, where he studied with Dominique Rouits. He has participated in master classes with such distinguished conductors as the late Kurt Masur, Michael Tilson Thomas, Gianluigi Gelmetti, George Manahan, and Asher Fisch.

Also a gifted pianist, *Stilian Kirov* was the Gold Medalist of the 2001 Claude Kahn International Piano Competition in Paris.

[www.stiliankirov.com](http://www.stiliankirov.com).

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"Kirov conducted with great vitality and energy as well as a fine sense of both balance and timing, and got exciting performances from all hands — chorus, soloists, and orchestra."  
[Orff's *Carmina Burana*]

*SEATTLE TIMES*