

Simon Murphy

Bios - Full, Long, Short, Shorter and Mini

Full Bio (1215 words):

Simon Murphy (Sydney, 1973) is an international award winning, Dutch based, Australian conductor with a special focus on music of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Performing at the world's most prestigious halls and festivals, Murphy has attracted praise from the international media and major industry awards for his fresh and engaging musical approach, with France's music magazine *Diapason* reporting, "The repertoire-refresher, conductor Simon Murphy radiates joie de vivre. His interpretation distinguishes itself by its enthusiasm and his approach possesses a classic élan, displaying delicate sensitivity."

Working with both specialist baroque and modern symphony orchestras, Murphy has established an international reputation for his energising and invigorating conducting and orchestral leadership techniques, described by the BBC Music Magazine as "the best of both worlds". He is currently the chief-conductor and artistic director of The Hague's Baroque Orchestra, The New Dutch Academy (NDA).

Heralded as "a musician with *guts*" by the Netherlands' *De Volkskrant*, Murphy has won international recognition for his dynamic and insightful performances of established orchestral repertoire, as well as for his pioneering work in bringing new, rediscovered masterworks to life on the concert platform and on disc.

A world authority on the early, classical symphony, Murphy's discography includes world première presentations of works by 18th century symphonists Stamitz, Richter, Schmitt ("The Dutch Haydn"), Schwindl, Graaf and Zappa (PentaTone Classics). Other orchestral triumphs include his ground-breaking, 2003 recording of Corelli's *Concerti Grossi*, which was voted as one of the top five highlights in the 30 year history of the Holland Festival of Early Music Utrecht.

European festival highlights have included productions for the Händel Festspiele Halle, Bachfest Leipzig, Thüringer Bachwochen, Musikfestspiele Potsdam Sanssouci, Roma Europa Festival, and Festival van Vlaanderen. International concert touring has taken Murphy through Europe, the U.S., Canada, Russia, Asia and Australia, with broadcasts for the NTR, RNW, EBU, DLF, HR, MDR, RAI and ABC. Recent conducting highlights in the Netherlands have included cycles of Stamitz, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Mendelssohn symphonies for Dutch radio at The Hague's Philipszaal, De Doelen in Rotterdam and Amsterdam's Het Concertgebouw.

Murphy's performances and recordings have been enthusiastically received by the world's press. The American Record Guide declared "Gorgeous performances ... Simon Murphy is clearly a conductor to watch for" and The Australian described him as "The hottest property on the European baroque scene".

"Murphy is a musician with *guts*, a conductor with the passion and conviction of a born missionary." De Volkskrant

Murphy's music making has been described by Germany's *Alte Musik Aktuell* as "engaging, energising and vibrant" and by the Netherlands' music magazine *Luister* as "18th century rock 'n roll".

Murphy has won major music industry awards, including the Netherlands' Edison Music Award in 2004 and Luxembourg's Supersonic Award in 2006. His performance of Mozart Symphony no. 41 *Jupiter* in the Holland Festival of Early Music was chosen by the Dutch world service (RNW) as one of the highlights of the whole Dutch cultural season 2005-2006 and was subsequently featured in a series of live discs. Murphy's performances of Symphonies by Beethoven and Haydn in Rotterdam's De Doelen have been featured in 2010 in a series of live portrait CDs by Dutch broadcaster NPS (NTR) and the low countries' classical music magazine *Luister*.

For the visit of H.M. Queen Beatrix to Italy in 2004, Murphy was chosen to programme and conduct the Royal Command Performance given in Rome's Palazzo Quirinale, broadcast live on RAI. He arranged and conducted the music for the 400 year, bilateral celebrations between Australia and the Netherlands in 2006 in both countries, and in 2009 was chosen to represent the Netherlands at the Cultural Olympiade in Vancouver, Canada and at the Hudson 400 celebrations in New York.

"The repertoire-refresher, conductor Simon Murphy radiates joie de vivre. His interpretation distinguishes itself by its enthusiasm and his approach possesses a classic élan, displaying delicate sensitivity." Diapason

Murphy made his Het Concertgebouw conducting début in 2004, as well as at the Brussels Le Palais des Beaux-Arts (BOZAR / Centre for Fine Arts). In 2008, he made his début at the Händel Festspiele Halle, and at the Bachfest Leipzig in 2010.

Murphy is particularly notable for his pioneering work in rediscovering and reintroducing forgotten 18th century, European, symphonic composers, particularly from and related to the Mannheim School (Mannheimer Schule). Murphy has also been responsible for the unveiling of the previously unknown Dutch 18th century symphonic tradition, through performances, radio and TV broadcasts, and first CD recordings. He has also championed 18th century composers Joseph Schmitt "The Dutch Haydn" and Francesco Zappa, with first CD recordings and new editions of their symphonic works.

Alongside his conducting activities, Murphy is active as a viola soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, also performing on Bach's own hand-held violoncello piccolo (also known as the viola da spalla or viola pomposa). On this instrument, he was invited to give a special of recitals in original Bach castles as part of the Bachfest Leipzig and Thüringer Bachwochen.

As a sought after educator, Murphy regularly gives masterclasses, workshops and lecture recitals on topics including historically informed performance. Recent invitations have included The Royal Conservatorium of Music The Hague, The Royal College of Music Stockholm, The Conservatorium of Sydney, The Glinka Conservatorium Nizhny Novgorod, and The Getty Center Los Angeles.

As a festival director, advisor and programmer, Murphy is highly regarded for his creative and practical approach to both concert and festival programming. Recent highlights include *Black Magic*, a programme exploring the late 18th century fascination with the supernatural and gothic, and the successful new stage production *Empress of Pleasure*, which celebrates the infamous 18th century London actress, singer, opera impresario and mother to Casanova's daughter, "Mrs Cornelys". Murphy was recently appointed artistic advisor and music programmer to The Hague's new European Life I Live Festival, in co-operation with the European Commission in the Netherlands and the city of The Hague.

Murphy started learning violin at age of four and changed to the viola at age 11. He received his early, music tuition as a music scholar at the Scots College in Sydney, Australia. He completed his undergraduate studies in the areas of music performance, musicology and fine arts at the University of Sydney in 1996. He studied the viola with Russian-Australian Leonid Volovelsky and early music performance with Hans-Dieter Michatz and Geoffrey Lancaster. He taught at The University of Newcastle Conservatorium of Music, and played in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra under conductors David Porcelijn and Hans Vonk.

Murphy moved to the Netherlands in 1996 where he was further educated by the leading lights of the Dutch early music movement. He studied Baroque viola with Alda Stuurop at the Utrecht Conservatorium, took masterclasses with Lucy van Dael and Sigiswald Kuijken, and performed extensively with other legendary figures including Frans Brüggen and Gustav Leonhardt in leading European authentic instrument ensembles such as The Orchestra of the 18th Century. Between 2000 and 2005, Murphy was the violist of The Amsterdam String Quartet, touring extensively and performing in the quartet's home series in Het Concertgebouw. For his study, he was awarded grants by the Sir Ian Potter Foundation and The Netherlands Performing Arts Fund.

Future conducting engagements include appearances in Scandinavia, Northern Europe, China and Australia. Upcoming highlights include Bach's *B Minor Mass* with the State Choir of Latvia in Riga and a double programme of Handel's *Water Music* and early symphonies by Stamitz, JC Bach, Schmitt, Reichardt and Cimarosa with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

www.simonmurphyconductor.com

October 2012

Long Bio (710 words):

Simon Murphy (Sydney, 1973) is an international award winning, Dutch based, Australian conductor with a special focus on music of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

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Working with both specialist baroque and modern symphony orchestras, Murphy has established an international reputation for his energising and invigorating conducting and orchestral leadership techniques, described by the *BBC Music Magazine* as "the best of both worlds". He is currently the chief-conductor and artistic director of The Hague's Baroque Orchestra, The New Dutch Academy (NDA).

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A world authority on the early, classical symphony, Murphy's discography includes world première presentations of works by 18th century symphonists Stamitz, Richter, Schmitt ("The Dutch Haydn"), Schwindl, Graaf and Zappa (PentaTone Classics). Murphy has won major industry awards, including the Netherlands' Edison Music Award and his groundbreaking 2003 recording of Corelli's *Concerti Grossi* was voted as one of the top five highlights in the 30 year history of the Holland Festival of Early Music Utrecht.

European festival highlights have included productions for the Händel Festspiele Halle, Bachfest Leipzig, Thüringer Bachwochen, Musikfestspiele Potsdam Sanssouci, Roma Europa Festival, and Festival van Vlaanderen. International concert touring has taken Murphy through Europe, the U.S., Canada, Russia, Asia and Australia, with broadcasts for the NTR, RNW, EBU, DLF, HR, MDR, RAI and ABC. Recent conducting highlights in the Netherlands have included cycles of Stamitz, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Mendelssohn symphonies for Dutch radio at The Hague's Philipszaal, De Doelen in Rotterdam and Amsterdam's Het Concertgebouw.

Murphy started learning violin at age of four, changing to the viola at age 11. He completed his undergraduate degree in music performance, musicology and fine arts at the University of Sydney in 1996, studying the viola with Leonid Volovelsky and early music performance with Hans-Dieter Michatz and Geoffrey Lancaster. Murphy moved to the Netherlands in 1996 where he was further educated by the leading lights of the Dutch early music movement. He studied Baroque viola with Alda Stuurop and took masterclasses with Lucy van Dael and Sigiswald Kuijken. He has performed extensively with legendary figures including Frans Brüggen and Gustav Leonhardt, in major European authentic instrument ensembles such as The Orchestra of the 18th Century, and between 2000 and 2005 was the violist of The Amsterdam String Quartet.

Alongside his conducting activities, Murphy remains active as a viola soloist, recitalist and chamber musician. Also performing on Bach's own hand-held violoncello piccolo (or viola da spalla/viola pomposa), he was invited to give a special of recitals in original Bach castles as part of the Bachfest Leipzig and Thüringer Bachwochen. As a sought after educator, Murphy regularly gives masterclasses, workshops and lecture-recitals on topics including historically informed

performance. Recent invitations include The Royal Conservatorium of Music The Hague, The Royal College of Music Stockholm, The Glinka Conservatorium Nizhny Novgorod and The Getty Center Los Angeles.

Murphy is highly regarded for his creative and practical approach to concert and festival programming. Recent highlights include *Black Magic*, a programme exploring the late 18th century obsession with the supernatural, and the successful new stage production *Empress of Pleasure*, which celebrates the infamous 18th century London actress, singer, opera impresario and mother to Casanova's daughter, "Mrs Cornelys". At the request of the Dutch government, he has regularly programmed, arranged and performed music for cultural diplomacy programmes and major bilateral events. In 2012 Murphy was appointed music programmer and artistic advisor to The Hague's new European Life I Live festival.

Future conducting engagements include appearances in Scandinavia, Northern Europe, China and Australia. Upcoming highlights include Bach's *B Minor Mass* with the State Choir of Latvia in Riga, a double programme of Handel's *Water Music* and early classical symphonies with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.

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October 2012

Short and Preferred Bio (350 words):

Simon Murphy (Sydney, 1973) is an international award winning, Dutch based, Australian conductor with a special focus on music of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Performing at the world's most prestigious halls and festivals, Murphy has attracted international media attention for his fresh and engaging musical approach, with France's Diapason reporting, "Repertoire-refresher, conductor Simon Murphy radiates joie de vivre. His interpretation distinguishes itself by its enthusiasm and his approach possesses a classic élan, displaying delicate sensitivity."

Working with both specialist baroque and modern symphony orchestras, Murphy's energising and invigorating conducting technique was described by the BBC Music Magazine as "the best of both worlds". He is currently the chief-conductor and artistic director of The Hague's Baroque Orchestra, The New Dutch Academy (NDA).

Praised as "a musician with *guts*" by the Netherlands' De Volkskrant, Murphy is a world authority on the early, classical symphony. His discography includes world première presentations of works by 18th century symphonists Stamitz, Richter, Schmitt ("The Dutch Haydn"), Schwindl, Graaf and Zappa (PentaTone Classics). His groundbreaking 2003 recording of Corelli's *Concerti Grossi* was voted as one of the top five highlights in the 30 year history of the Holland Festival of Early Music Utrecht.

European festival appearances include productions for the Händel Festspiele Halle and Bachfest Leipzig. International concert touring has taken Murphy through Europe, the US, Canada, Russia, Asia and Australia. Recent conducting highlights in the Netherlands have included cycles of Stamitz, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Mendelssohn symphonies at The Hague's Philipszaal and Amsterdam's Het Concertgebouw.

After graduating from the University of Sydney, Murphy was further educated in the Netherlands where he was the violist of The Amsterdam String Quartet and performed extensively with legendary figures Frans Brüggen and Gustav Leonhardt in ensembles such as The Orchestra of the 18th Century.

Alongside conducting, Murphy remains internationally active as a viola soloist and chamber musician. He regularly gives masterclasses and lecture-recitals, is artistic advisor to The Hague's new European Life I Live Festival and has programmed major bilateral events for the Dutch government.

Upcoming conducting engagements include appearances in Scandinavia, Northern Europe, China and Australia.

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October 2012

Shorter Bio (230 words):

“Repertoire refresher”, Simon Murphy (Sydney, 1973) is an international award-winning, Dutch based, Australian conductor with a special focus on music of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Performing at the world's most prestigious halls and festivals, he has won international recognition for delivering fresh perspectives on classic symphonic repertoire and for bringing newly rediscovered masterworks to life. France's Diapason reported “Murphy radiates joie de vivre. His interpretation distinguishes itself by its enthusiasm and his approach possesses a classic élan, displaying delicate sensitivity.”

Working with both specialist baroque and modern symphony orchestras, Murphy's conducting technique was described by the BBC Music Magazine as "the best of both worlds". He has performed throughout Europe, the US, Canada, Russia, Asia and Australia and is currently the chief-conductor of The Hague's Baroque Orchestra, The New Dutch Academy.

His recent concert highlights include cycles of Stamitz, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Mendelssohn symphonies for Dutch radio at The Hague's Philipszaal and Amsterdam's Het Concertgebouw. European festival appearances include productions for the Händel Festspiele Halle and Bachfest Leipzig.

Murphy is recognised as a world authority on the early, classical symphony. His discography includes first recordings of symphonies by Stamitz, Schmitt ("The Dutch Haydn"), Graaf and Zappa. His ground-breaking recording of Corelli's *Concerti Grossi* was voted one of the top five highlights in the 30 year history of the Holland Festival of Early Music Utrecht.

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October 2012

Even Shorter Bio (100 words):

“Repertoire refresher”, Simon Murphy (Sydney, 1973) is an international award-winning Australian conductor with a special focus on music of the 18th and early 19th centuries. He has won international recognition for delivering fresh perspectives on classic symphonic repertoire and bringing rediscovered masterworks to life. His 2003 recording of Corelli's *Concerti Grossi* was voted one of the top five highlights in the 30 year history of the Holland Festival of Early Music Utrecht. He has performed throughout Europe, the US, Canada, Russia, Asia and Australia and is currently the chief-conductor of The Hague's Baroque Orchestra, The New Dutch Academy.

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October 2012

Mini Bio (50 words):

“Repertoire refresher”, Simon Murphy (Sydney, 1973) is an international award-winning Australian conductor with a special focus on music of the 18th and early 19th centuries. He has won international recognition for delivering fresh musical perspectives and is currently the chief-conductor of The Hague's Baroque Orchestra, The New Dutch Academy.

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