

Mark Edwards - Conductor

Originally from Edinburgh, Mark trained as a percussionist before taking up conducting and studying at the Royal Northern College of Music with Clark Rundell and Mark Heron, where he was awarded the Brierley Kershaw Prize for Conducting. Comfortable working on large-scale projects for both orchestra and choir, he has directed major works across the symphonic and choral repertoire. As assistant conductor he has worked with *BBC Philharmonic*, *Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra*, *RTÉ Concert Orchestra*, *Scottish Chamber Orchestra* and the contemporary music ensemble *Psappha*, assisting conductors such as Sir Mark Elder, Vasily Petrenko, Vassily Sinaisky, John Storgårds and Simone Young. He has also undertaken masterclasses with renowned conductors such as Sir Mark Elder, Marin Alsop and David Hill. During his time in Manchester, he worked with a variety of RNCM ensembles conducting a large range of repertoire including a number of premieres. With a keen interest in contemporary music, Mark has worked with Royal Northern Sinfonia, London Sinfonietta Academy and Streetwise Opera on new compositions. Recent highlights include performing at the Royal Albert Hall, London and Symphony Hall, Birmingham and live broadcasts for various BBC3 programmes. Mark won the National Brass Band Conducting Competition in 2017 and more recently was a semi-finalist in the Citta' Di Brescia-Giancarlo Facchinetti Conducting Competition. As musical director for the award winning chamber choir 'Voices of Hope' (recent winners of the BBC Choir of the Year Competition), Mark has curated numerous programmes including a recent jazz inspired concert with Will Todd and a concert of new commissions with Neil Ferris. The choir has recorded four albums and earlier this year were awarded a Gold Diploma at the INTERKULTUR International Choir Competition. He is the artistic director of Kainos, a pierrot ensemble championing innovative performances of contemporary and North East repertoire. He is also musical director for the City of Leeds Youth Orchestra, Artistic Director of the Cobweb Orchestra and a guest lecturer in Conducting at Newcastle University and Leeds Conservatoire.