

# CV

## **Kaapo Johannes Ijas**

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Kaapo Ijas (b.1988) is the Mills Williams Junior Fellow in Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music. He has been fiercely interested in composing, performance, drama, group dynamics and the orchestra itself for all his life. In 2012 it lead him to conducting studies first in Sibelius Academy then Zürcher Hochschule der Künste and ultimately Royal College of Music in Stockholm where he graduated from in spring of 2017.

His teachers during his studies and masterclasses include Jorma Panula, Johannes Schlaefli, Jaap van Zweden, Riccardo Muti, Esa-Pekka Salonen, David Zinman, Neeme and Paavo Järvi and Atso Almila. Ijas has conducted i.a. Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Norrköping SO, South Jutland SO, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Gävle Symfoniorkester, Kurpfälzisches Kammerorchester (Mannheim), Hradec Kralove Philharmonia, KMH Symphony Orchestra, Seinäjoki City Orchestra, KammarensembleN, Norrbotten NEO, Swedish Army Band, Helsinki Police band and numerous other project ensembles and choirs during masterclasses and in concerts.

Ijas has been invited to various prestigious masterclasses including Gstaad Menuhin Festival 2018 with Jaap van Zweden, Riccardo Muti Opera Academy 2017 in Ravenna, the 8th Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich masterclass with David Zinman in 2017 and Järvi Academy with Paavo and Neeme Järvi in 2016. He was semifinalist in Donatella Flick Conducting Competition 2016 after invited to the competition with 2 weeks notice and among the top 7 in Cadaqués Conducting Competition 2017. In 2018 Ijas was selected as 24 conductors from 566 applicants to take part in Nikolai Malko competition in Copenhagen and won the 3rd prize in Jorma Panula Conducting Competition in Vaasa.

Ijas has been assistant conductor in several opera productions including *Aida* at Stockholm Royal Opera with Pier Giorgio Morandi in 2018, Kurt Weill's *Rise and Fall of the city of Mahagonny* at NorrlandsOpera in Umeå During fall of 2016 with Damian Iorio and during spring of 2018 he assisted Sasha Mäkilä in OperaBox production of *Rigoletto*. He has also conducted opera productions in co-operation with Operahögskolan in Stockholm including *Behind the Masks* (combined production of *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte*) and *STHLM New Opera* 2017.

Ijas is the founder and conductor of ArtsOrchestra, a student orchestra specializing in combining other arts, pedagogical elements and social criticism with concert music. Such concerts has been i.a. *Nutoracker 2.0* (New dramaturgical arrangement of the Tchaikovsky's ballet with audiovisual elements and contemporary dance) and *Ekokalypsi* (composition of Ijas for orchestra and mixed choir, with the text dealing with environmental issues).

Broadmindedness and unprejudiced attitude towards other arts and all genres is in the very core of Ijas' approach. Music, as any other art, is breathing together whatever the style or period.

Kaapo's studies and projects are supported by Suomen Kulttuurirahasto, Wihuri Foundation, Suomen Säveltaiteen Tukisäätiö and The Sibelius Academy Foundation.

## Main Studies

- 2015-17** *Kungliga Musikhögskolan (Royal Academy of Music), Stockholm*  
Master's degree, Orchestral Conducting  
Professor: B Tommy Andersson
- 2015** *Zürcher Hochschule der Künste*  
Erasmus-exchange, Orchestral Conducting  
Professor: Johannes Schlaefli
- 2012-15** *Sibelius Academy, Helsinki*  
Youth class, Orchestral Conducting  
Professor: Jorma Panula
- 2012-15** *Sibelius Academy, Helsinki*  
Bachelor's degree, Wind Conducting  
Professors: Peter Larsen and Atso Almila
- 2007-12** *Sibelius Academy, Helsinki*  
Bachelor's degree, Music education

## Masterclasses and Competitions

- 12/2017** *7th Jorma Panula Conducting Competition, 3rd Prize*
- 7-8/2018** *Gstaad Menuhin Festival Conducting Academy, Switzerland*  
Active student  
Repertoire: Brahms, Beethoven, Hummel, Mendelssohn, Mozart, Wagner  
Professors: Jaap van Zweden and Johannes Schlaefli
- 4/2018** *Malko Conducting Competition 2018*
- 12/2017** *12th Cadaqués International Conducting Competition 2017, quarter-finalist (top 7)*
- 9/2017** *Riccardo Muti Opera Conducting Academy, Ravenna, Italy*  
Active student  
Repertoire: Verdi: *Aida*  
Professor: Riccardo Muti
- 3/2017** *The 8th Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich masterclass*  
Active student  
Repertoire: Beethoven, Copland, Dvořak, Saint-Saëns  
Professor: David Zinman
- 11/2016** *Donatella Flick Conducting Competition 2016, Semifinalist (top 10)*

**7/2016**

*Järvi Academy summer masterclass*

Active student

Repertoire: Haydn, Mozart, Prokofjev, Rachmaninov, Schubert, Tormis, Tubin

Professors: Paavo Järvi, Neeme Järvi and Arkady Leytush

**8/2014**

*Nordic Masterclass, South Jutland SO*

Active student

Repertoire: Brahms, Nielsen, Sibelius

Professor: Jorma Panula

## Notable performances

- 9/2017** *Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Conducting Academy Galaconcert*  
Final concert of the masterclass with 5 active students conducting a selection from Verdi's *Aida*. Ijas was selected to conduct the whole 4th act of the opera and was well received by audience, maestro Muti and critics.
- "Of all the most effortless and technically most versatile was the finn Kaapo Ijas who conducted the fourth act of *Aida* – and he is clearly in the beginning of a big career."  
– Von Walter Dobner/Die Presse – 17.09.2017
- 5/2017** *KMH master concert, Norrköping SO, Conductor/composer.*  
Diploma concert ending his studies at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. The concert program was Sibelius' 7th symphony and it was also the first performance of *Schizoponia for orchestra*.
- 10/2016** *Ekokalypsi, Helsinki Rock Church (premiere), ArtsOrchestra and Koiton Laulu*  
*Conductor/Composer,*  
An environment themed concert with new choir/orchestra piece *Ekokalypsi*, Salmenhaara *Missa Profana* for choir and 4th movement from Mahler 3rd symphony.
- 12/2015** *Nutcracker 2.0, Music Center Black Box, Helsinki, ArtsOrchestra,*  
*Conductor/Arranger/Concept*  
The *Nutcracker 2.0* was a 50-minute performance aimed at school children from grades 5 to 9. The tale from the classical ballet is approached from a fresh new viewpoint. New meets old, when Tchaikovsky's beloved music is set in a broadminded context of contemporary dance, visualization and sound design. The performances were a part of the Sibelius Academy of the University of Arts Helsinki Concert Series.
- 10/2015** *Centro Cultural Universtário, Maputo, Mozambique, Xiquitsi-orchestra, Conductor*  
Ijas was invited to conduct Xiquitsi-orchestra in Maputo, Mozambique, during the 3<sup>o</sup> cycle of concerts of Maputo Classical Music Festival. The program included music of Sibelius in celebration of Sibelius 150th anniversary supported by Kone foundation.
- 10/2015** *Oodi ilolle - VMO 50 vuotta, Helsinki Music Center Concert hall,*  
*Arranger/Composer*  
Arrangement commissioned by Vantaa Music Institute. It was performed by over 300 students comprising of a large symphony orchestra, childrens choir, youth choir (descant), folk music group, rock band, music play school children with kanteles, a "stomp" group and instrumental/vocal soloists. Work combined and juxtaposed music of i.a. Sibelius, Prokofiev, Stravinsky and Debussy with Ode to Joy (Beethoven's 9th symphony) as a main theme.
- 12/2013** *Turvapaikka - cantata for mixed choir and orchestra, Helsinki Conservatory,*  
*ArtsOrchestra and Koiton Laulu, Conductor/Composer*  
Composition of Ijas with lyrics by Hanna Weselius dealing with immigration and problems that refugees face in their everyday life in eastern Helsinki.
- 3/2012** *Etiäinen, Studionäyttämö, Media Centre Lume, Helsinki, Conductor, composer*  
Theater Academy Helsinki project. Experimental musical theatre piece with contemporary dance, audiovisual design, drama and orchestral music.