

Winner of the European Conductors Competition in Oslo and laureate of Evgeny Svetlanov Competition in Paris, Kalle Kuusava is on demand as an operatic and symphonic conductor.

In recent seasons, he has returned to the Finnish National Opera and Ballet for productions of Britten's *Billy Budd* and a ballet *Triple Bill: Made in Finland*. He also conducted a production of *Werther* for the Savonlinna Opera Festival, and performed in concerts with various orchestras, including the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra, the Arctic Philharmonic, the Ural Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Szczecin Philharmonic.

His past appearances have included *Madama Butterfly* and *Entführung aus dem Serail* for Savonlinna Opera Festival, *La Traviata* for Theater an der Wien, *Carmen* for Norwegian National Opera, *Maid of Pskov* for Mariinsky Theatre, *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca* and *Tristan und Isolde* for Opera at National Theatre in Rijeka, *Elisir d'Amore* for Szczecin Opera, debuts with Finnish National and Monte Carlo Ballets, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Moscow Chamber Orchestra National Philharmonic of Russia, Hanoi Philharmonic Orchestra, Saigon Opera Orchestra and Szczecin Philharmonic Orchestra.

He has a vast operatic repertoire, having worked at the Norwegian National Opera and the Zurich Opera, and assisting conductors such as Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Hannu Lintu, Fabien Gabel, Tomáš Hanus, and Antonino Fogliani. In 2019, he was appointed as Music and Artistic Director of Opera at the Croatian National Theatre in Rijeka.

Mr. Kuusava was born in 1983 in Lahti, and studied piano and chamber music at the Sibelius-Academy, where he also participated in conducting masterclasses with Jorma Panula and Atso Almila. He completed his master's degree in orchestral conducting at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, where he studied with Jukka-Pekka Saraste and Ole Kristian Ruud.

