

Finnish cellist **ANSSI KARTTUNEN** is one of the most reputable and versatile musicians on today's classical music scene. Exceedingly active both as a soloist and chamber musician, his repertoire covers all of the standard works for cello, as well as myriad forgotten masterpieces and his own arrangements. He plays on modern, classical and baroque cellos, as well as the violoncello piccolo.

Karttunen is a passionate advocate of contemporary music. He has performed more than 90 world premieres, collaborating with such composers as Magnus Lindberg, Kaija Saariaho, Rolf Wallin, Luca Francesconi and Tan Dun; 18 concertos have been written for him. He premiered Lindberg's cello concerto with the Orchestre de Paris, Esa-Pekka Salonen's *Mania* with Avanti!, Martin Matalon's cello concerto with the Orchestre National de France and Francesconi's *Rest* with the RAI Torino (2004). On commission from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Saariaho wrote the concerto *Notes on Light* for Karttunen, which he premiered in 2007. Performances of *Notes on Light* with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Swedish Radio, North German Radio Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris and the New World Symphony followed.

Karttunen has worked with orchestras such as the Philadelphia, Philharmonia, NHK, Tokyo Metropolitan and Residentie Orchestras; Tokyo, Munich, Rotterdam, Luxembourg, Oslo and Helsinki Philharmonics; BBC Symphony; Orchestre National de France; Southwest German Radio Symphony Orchestra; Ensemble Modern; Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona; Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra and RAI Torino. He performs regularly as a soloist or chamber musician at Europe's most important music festivals.

His recordings traverse a broad spectrum of music, from Beethoven's complete works for cello and piano played on period instruments to 20th-century solo pieces to concertos performed with the London Sinfonietta and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. He has released recordings of concertos by Lindberg, Saariaho and Salonen with Sony Classical. With Deutsche Grammophon, he released a DVD of Tan Dun's *The Map* for cello, video and Orchestra. He also appeared on the first contemporary music CD-ROM, "Prisma," featuring the music of Saariaho.

Karttunen has been artistic director of the Avanti! Chamber Orchestra; he directed the Helsinki Biennale in 1995 and the Suvisoitto Festival in Porvoo, Finland, from 1994 until 1997. From 1999 until 2005, he was principal cellist of the London Sinfonietta. He has also appeared as a conductor with various ensembles.