

From the beginning of his career, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Music Director **JACQUES LACOMBE** has been highly praised as a remarkable conductor whose artistic integrity and rapport with orchestras have propelled him to international stature.

Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal from 2002 to 2006, he led the orchestra in more than 100 performances, including programs from the central European classics to the French and Russian literature, as well as several world premieres. He served for three years as Music Director of both orchestra and opera with the Philharmonie de Lorraine in France; he has been Music Director of the Orchestre Symphonique de Trois-Rivières since 2006.

This season, Lacombe returns to the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal for season-opening concerts of works by Jacques Hétu, Ravel and Orff. Operatic engagements include returns to the Opera Company of Philadelphia for *Roméo et Juliette*, Deutsche Oper Berlin for *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Vancouver Opera for *La Traviata* and the world premiere of John Estacio's *Lillian Alling* and l'Opéra de Marseille for *Le Cid*.

Last season, Lacombe made his debut with the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, leading an all-star cast of *Tosca*. He led *Ariadne auf Naxos* for his debut with the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich. He led *Turandot* and *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* for Opéra de Monte-Carlo and *Der fliegende Holländer*, *Eugene Onegin* and concert performances of Waltershausen's rarely heard *Oberst Chabert* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin; he appeared with the Edmonton and Québec Symphony Orchestras.

In addition to his collaborations with all the major Canadian orchestras, including several tours and recordings with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, Lacombe has worked abroad with orchestras in Monte-Carlo, Nice, Toulouse and Halle, as well as Orchestre Lamoureux in Paris, Slovakia Philharmonic, Budapest Symphony, Royal Flemish Philharmonic, Victoria Orchestra Melbourne and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

A regular guest at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, where he has led numerous productions, including Zemlinsky's *Der Traumgöрге*, Lacombe conducted the world premiere of Vladimir Cosma's *Marius et Fanny* at l'Opéra de Marseille starring Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Alagna. He has also led operatic productions at the Metropolitan Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich and Teatro Regio in Turin, along with opera companies in Milwaukee, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Montréal and Québec.

He has recorded for the Analekta label and has been broadcast on PBS, the CBC, Arte TV in France and on Hungarian Radio-Television.

Born in Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Québec, Lacombe received his musical training at the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal and at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna.