

VILMANTAS KALIUNAS

CONDUCTOR

Vilmantas Kaliunas was born in Vilnius, Lithuania. He received his first piano lesson from his father at the age of four and at the M. K. Čiurlionis-Art School before he started playing the oboe at the age of eleven.

In 1992 he received his diploma at the Tallat-Kelpsa-Conservatory of Music in the class of Vidas Lubauskas and continued his oboe studies at the National Academy of Music in Vilnius in the class of Romualdas Staškus. His interest in German oboe playing brought Vilmantas to Saarbrücken, where he continued his studies in the class of Prof. Armin Aussem at the Conservatory of Music.

Vilmantas is principal oboe in the German Radio Philharmonic Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern. He has played as principal oboe and as a soloist with numerous prominent orchestras such as Frankfurt Radio Orchestra (HR), South-West German Radio Orchestra (SWR), Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra and Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra with conductors like Christoph Poppen, Paavo Järvi, Andrey Boreyko and Christian Thielemann.

Conducting was always an important part of Vilmantas' studies in Lithuania. After gathering a few years of orchestral experience as an oboist, he was accepted to study conducting at the University of Music "Franz Liszt" in Weimar with renowned Prof. Nicolas Pasquet and Martin Hoff. Since then he has also taken part in masterclasses with Prof. Karl-Heinz Bloemeke, Prof. Lutz Köhler and Prof. Jorma Panula and assisted Maestro Karl Marek Chichon.

As a guest conductor, he regularly works with the Thuringia Philharmonic Orchestra Gotha, the Jena Philharmonic Orchestra, the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra as well as the Pazardjik Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria) and the Kaunas City Symphony Orchestra. This year he also conducted a whole production of "Rigoletto" at the Ukraine State Opera of Dnepropetrovsk.

Apart from professional orchestras, Vilmantas is very passionate about working with youth orchestras. Since 2014 he has conducted the Schleswig Holstein Musik Festival Orchestral Academy with young musicians from all over the world and assisted prominent conductors such as David Newman and Christoph Eschenbach.