



THOMAS ADÈS

Renowned as both composer and performer, Thomas Adès works regularly with the world's leading orchestras. Several festivals have focused on his music, including Musica Nova (Helsinki, 1999), Salzburg Easter Festival (2004), Présences (Paris, 2007), Traced Overhead (Barbican, 2007), Stockholm International Composers Festival (November 2009); throughout 2007–8, he was featured as composer, conductor and pianist at Carnegie Hall, New York.

His many conducting engagements include appearances at the BBC Proms with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and productions of *The Rake's Progress* at the Royal Opera House London and Zurich Opera.

Born in London in 1971, Thomas Adès studied piano and composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and read music at King's College, Cambridge. Between 1993 and 1995 he was Composer in Association with the Hallé Orchestra. *Asyla* (1997) was commissioned for Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, who performed it at Symphony Hall in 1998 in Rattle's last concert as Music Director. Rattle subsequently programmed *Asyla* in his opening concert as Music Director of the Berlin Philharmonic in 2002.

Adès's first opera, *Powder Her Face*, commissioned by Almeida Opera for the 1995 Cheltenham Festival, has been performed worldwide, was televised by Channel Four, and is available on DVD and CD. His second opera, *The Tempest*, commissioned by the Royal Opera House, was premiered to great critical acclaim in 2004, revived in 2007 and is now available on CD. In 2005 his Violin concerto, written for Anthony Marwood, was premiered at the Berliner Festspiele and performed at the BBC Proms. His second orchestral work for Simon Rattle, *Tevot* (2007), was commissioned by the Berlin Philharmonic and Carnegie Hall. Other recent works include a "Piano concerto with moving image" entitled *In Seven Days*—a collaboration with the video artist Tal Rosner commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and London's Southbank Centre and premiered at the Royal Festival Hall in 2008.

Adès's music has attracted numerous awards, including the Grawemeyer Award (in 2000, for *Asyla*), of which he is the youngest-ever recipient. From 1999 to 2008 he was Artistic Director of the Aldeburgh Festival.

Adès has been recording exclusively for EMI Classics since 1996, in which time his recordings have won awards around the world, including the *Gramophone* Award for Best Contemporary Recording in 2004 (*America - A Prophecy*) and the BBC Critics Choice Award and Diapason d'Or (*Asyla*).