

Jules van Hessen



Conductor Jules van Hessen graduated in 1984 from the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. His teachers were, among others, Edward Downes, Lionel Friend, Peter Eötvös, Karl Oesterreicher and Gennadi Rozhdjestvensky. In the 1980s and 1990s he won several international conducting awards, including the Silver Flower at the San Remo International Competition, the Second Prize and the Orchestra Prize in the Malko Competition in Copenhagen and the laureate prize in the Igor Stravinsky Conducting Competition in Austria. He was also chosen to conduct the final gala concerts at the Dutch (NOS) International Conductors Course. These awards led to numerous invitations to conduct orchestras both nationally and internationally. In 1991 he was the first Dutch conductor to be invited to the People's Republic of China to conduct two of their major symphony orchestras.

Jules van Hessen has worked with orchestras and opera houses in Italy, France, Denmark, Belgium, England (BBC Philharmonic), Germany, Austria, the U.S., China, the Middle East and Mexico and with such artists as Frank Peter Zimmerman, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Pepe Romero, Nelson Freire and Giora Feidman. He has made several recordings, including recently the critically acclaimed recording of the works of the Danish composer, Bent Sørensen. In the Netherlands he has conducted most of the professional orchestras including the Rotterdam Philharmonic and the Residentie Orchestra (The Hague Philharmonic).

Jules van Hessen is not only known for his musical talents and inventive programming, but also for his lecturing and presentational skills. He is a frequent guest on the business lecture circuit and he is a popular host on Dutch Public Classical Radio (NPS).

Since its foundation in 1987, he has been the Artistic Director of the highly successful and versatile Netherlands Theatre Orchestra. In the same year Van Hessen succeeded his teacher Louis Stotijn as Principal Conductor of the Philips Symphony Orchestra and with this orchestra he has made numerous recordings and has been touring a.o. China, Italy and Brazil.

Past season he has started his own series in concert hall TivoliVredenburg (Utrecht), introducing and conducting masterpieces featuring Het Gelders Orkest (Arnhem Philharmonic) with, among others, Mahler's First Symphony and Stravinsky's Firebird Suite 1945. Due to its success, next season more than 20 concerts are scheduled, with the Noord Nederlands Orkest joining the project.