



“Dimitrov is a knowledgeable and sensitive musician and leader whose carefully thought-out attention to nuances, contrasts, and phrasing turned the notes of Schubert's score into a moving musical experience. The orchestra became his instrument, sensitively responding to his direction.”

Ridgefield Press, October 2010, by Courtenay Cauble

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“In the Scottish Symphony, the character of the playing combines an effervescing vitality and a natural Slavonic warmth, particularly from the full-toned strings. Petko Dimitrov shapes Mendelssohn’s lovely lyrical opening with an appealing simplicity, and in the first climax of the vivace of the exposition his surge of animation has the players all but scampering in their exhilaration. The scherzo sparkles, the slow movement is beautifully shaped yet has a sombre underlay which prevents any suggestion of blandness, and after the dancing vivacissimo the close of the finale is expansive, almost Klemperer-like in its spacious grandeur. Overall, a performance of much character.”

Schubert’s Unfinished is even finer, the epitome of Romanticism, the quiet opening mysterious, darkly evocative, yet with incisive drama soon to offset the lyricism. Here the exposition repeat is played, and used to build an onward propulsion which is very compelling. Dimitrov’s modest change of pace for the exquisitely gentle opening of the second movement is perfectly judged, and the arrival of the secondary theme is beautifully prepared by the violins.”

The Gramophone Magazine, May 2003, by Ivan March

“He (Petko Dimitrov) took relaxed, expansive approach to the first movement (Schubert, Unfinished Symphony), shaping the melody and showing off the strings’ rich tone. As the movement went on, he emphasized its inherent drama to an almost operatic level. The orchestra leaned into the opening of the second movement, and Dimitrov’s pacing and handling of dynamics was expert.”

The News-Times, October 2010, Gilbert Mott

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A native of Bulgaria, Petko Dimitrov is currently in his first season as Music Director of the New Symphony Orchestra in Sofia. He also presently serves as Music Director of Cavallo Classico, Munich, Germany, and Music Director of the Western Connecticut Youth Orchestra. As Assistant Conductor of the Haddonfield Symphony, Mr. Dimitrov was awarded a Bruno Walter Memorial Foundation Fellowship in the 2007-2008 season, which recognizes accomplished young conductors and provides them with a monetary award to further develop their career.



In 2012, Mr. Dimitrov was invited by the Curtis Institute of Music to be Conductor in Residence at the Young Artist Summer Program, which resulted in immediate re-invitation for the 2013 and 2014 Curtis Summerfest. This season Petko will also return to conduct Symphony in C, one of the three professional training orchestras in the United States.

Previously, Petko Dimitrov has served as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra's summer series at Lasdon Park in Katonah, New York. He has also been Cover Conductor of the Princeton Symphony. In performances with WCYO, Mr. Dimitrov had his debut at Carnegie Hall in 2007 and Avery Fisher Hall in 2008. In the spring of 2007 Mr. Dimitrov led the orchestra on tour in Austria and performed in prestigious concert venues including Haydn'saal in Eisenstadt and Schlossberg in Graz. In July 2009, Petko was appointed the conductor of Excalibur - The Celtic Rock Opera, which toured major cities in Germany in 2010-2011. Mr. Dimitrov has been selected twice among the finalists of the George Solti International Conducting Competition.

Petko Dimitrov made his conducting debut with the New Symphony Orchestra, Sofia, Bulgaria in 1998, performing a concert with music by Sir Michael Tippett and Henry Purcell, in collaboration with The British Council. Since 2001 Mr. Dimitrov has been studying and working in the United States. In 2004 he completed his Master's Degree in Orchestra Conducting at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor under the direction of Prof. Kenneth Kiesler. Petko completed his studies with Prof. Gustav Meier at the Peabody Conservatory (2006), John Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, where he pursued a Graduate Performance Diploma in Orchestral Conducting.

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