

## Antoni Wit

### Conductor

*“Wit, wisdom and triumph; a spectacular Straussian ascent...Indeed, conductor Antoni Wit must take a lion’s share of the credit for the success of this mountain-climb.”*

Gramophone/Strauss’s Eine Alpensinfonie



Antoni Wit is one of the most highly regarded Polish conductors and a champion of Polish music. A top prize winner at the Herbert von Karajan International Conducting Competition in 1971 and an assistant to Herbert von Karajan at the Easter Festival in Salzburg, he subsequently worked with all of the leading orchestras in Poland before taking up the position of General and Artistic Director at the Warsaw Philharmonic in 2001 for twelve years until the end of the 12/13 season. He held the position of Music Director of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Navarra in Spain between 2013-2018, and he is Conductor Laureate of the Krakow Philharmonic in Poland. Antoni Wit was awarded the French Légion d'honneur in 2015.

He has enjoyed an international career with major orchestras throughout Europe, America and the Far East. Past highlights have included the Dresden Philharmonic, WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln, Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, Filarmonica della Scala, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, China Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, the Philharmonia and the BBC Symphony orchestras.

Seven times Grammy Award nominated, Antoni Wit has made over two hundred recordings for EMI, Sony and Naxos. He has sold over five million records on Naxos, including an acclaimed release of Prokofiev’s piano concertos with Kun Woo Paik, and was awarded the Diapason d’Or and Grand Prix de la Nouvelle Académie du Disque. He received the award of EMI “Record of the Year” in 1985 for his recording of Szymanowski’s Stabat Mater and in January 2002 he was given the Cannes Classical Award for his recording of Messiaen’s Turangalîla-Symphonie. More recently, the first two CDs from his series of complete works by Szymanowski were picked as the Gramophone “Editor’s Choice” and the subsequent two recordings were awarded the BBC Music Magazine’s “Editor’s Choice”. His first DVD release on the ICA Classics label was awarded ‘Editor’s Choice/DVD of the Month’ by Gramophone magazine; it features Antoni Wit conducting the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra in performances of Szymanowski’s Third and Fourth Symphonies. In 2012 Antoni Wit’s world premiere recording of Gorecki’s Concerto-Cantata with the Warsaw Philharmonic on Naxos received a Choc Award. His recording of Penderecki’s Fonogrammi, Horn Concerto, Partita, The Awakening of Jacob and Anaklasis on Naxos received a Grammy Award in 2013.

Highlights of orchestral engagements include concerts with the Berliner Philharmoniker, Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart, Weimar Staatskapelle, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia Rome, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin Prague Radio Symphony, Orchestre National de Lyon, Orquesta Simfónica de Barcelona, Orquesta Sinfónica de Puerto Rico, Casa da Música Porto, St Petersburg Philharmonic, Nagoya Philharmonic, New Japan Philharmonic, Teatro Colon Buenos Aires, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover, Taiwan National Symphony, NCPA Orchestra Beijing, Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Spanish National Orchestra, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, and the Cleveland Orchestra.

In the recent seasons Antoni Wit returned to Seoul Philharmonic, Warsaw Philharmonic, Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, Orquesta Simfónica de Barcelona, St Petersburg Philharmonic and the New Japan Philharmonic as well as made his début with the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Sofia Philharmonic and the Belarusian State Symphony Orchestra. Future engagements include concerts with the Slovenian and Macedonian Philharmonic, ONPL, Prague Symphony, Warsaw Philharmonic, Orquesta de Navarra, Cape Philharmonic, Nagoya Philharmonic as well as NCPA Beijing and NSO Taiwan.