**JOHN ELIOT GARDINER**

**Biography**



Sir John Eliot Gardiner is revered as one of the world’s most innovative and dynamic musicians and is a leader in the contemporary musical world. His work, as Founder and Artistic Director of the Monteverdi Choir, English Baroque Soloists (EBS) and Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique (ORR) has made him a key figure both in the early music revival and historically informed performance practice.

Gardiner is a regular guest of the world’s leading symphony orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, conducting repertoire from the 16th to the 20th centuries. He has also conducted opera productions at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Wiener Staatsoper and the Teatro alla Scala in Milan. From 1983 to 1988 he was Artistic Director of the Opéra de Lyon, where he founded its new orchestra.

His broad repertoire is illustrated by his extensive catalogue of award-winning recordings with the Monteverdi ensembles and other leading orchestras on both major labels and his own Soli Deo Gloria label. He holds two GRAMMY awards and has received more Gramophone Awards than any other living artist.

Recent achievements with the Monteverdi ensembles include the RPS award winning Monteverdi 450 project, a reprise of the 2000’s famous Bach Cantata Pilgrimage, which toured to some of Europe’s most famous concert halls and churches, a five-year exploration of Berlioz’s major works to mark the 150th anniversary of the composer’s death and a landmark performance of Verdi’s Requiem at London’s Westminster Cathedral in aid of Cancer Research UK. In 2019 Gardiner conducted new productions of Handel’s *Semele* and Berlioz’s *Benvenuto Cellini*, and gave his debut performances in Colombia, Russia, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile.

An authority on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach, Gardiner’s book, *Music in the Castle of Heaven: A Portrait of Johann Sebastian Bach*, was published in October 2013 by Allen Lane, leading to the Prix des Muses award (Singer-Polignac). Among numerous awards in recognition of his work, Gardiner holds several honorary doctorates. He was awarded a knighthood for his services to music in the 1998 Queen’s Birthday Honours List.