Valery Gergiev is Artistic and General Director of the Mariinsky Theatre, Principal Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, Principal Conductor of the World Orchestra for Peace, Chair of the Organizational Committee of the International Tchaikovsky Competition, Honorary President of the Edinburgh International Festival and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the St. Petersburg State University. Gergiev has established and directs such international festivals as the ‘Stars of the White Nights’ festival (St. Petersburg), the ‘Moscow Easter Festival’ and the ‘Gergiev Festival’ (the Netherlands). He has led numerous composer cycles including Hector Berlioz (1803-1869), Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), Henri Dutilleux (b. 1916), Gustav Mahler (1860-1911), Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953), Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975), Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971), Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) in New York, London, Paris and other international cities and he has introduced audiences around the world to several rarely performed Russian operas.