CRITICAL PRAISE

JAAP VAN ZWEDEN AND THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC

“Mr. van Zweden was in effect announcing, right at the start of his tenure, that he intended to take chances with the Philharmonic and bring emerging creators into its circle.”

— The New York Times, September 21, 2018

“In the second half, van Zweden conducted Stravinsky’s Rite of Spring, wielding his baton like a blade he’d been patiently whetting all summer. It flicked and flashed, and the orchestra answered with diamond-edged beats. Van Zweden transformed the orchestra into an ensemble of guillotines, fabulously precise and even nervously exciting.”

— New York magazine, September 21, 2018

“The music-making was at times magical, including some of the most intoxicatingly light playing I’ve heard from the New York Philharmonic under its new music director…. Mr. van Zweden drew beautifully nuanced playing from the Philharmonic musicians.”

— The New York Times, December 6, 2018

“This was a living, moving Bruckner, not a faceless monument…. Van Zweden has made a buoyant start.”

— The New Yorker, October 4, 2018

“And for Philharmonic regulars trying to glean what special qualities Mr. van Zweden may be bringing to the orchestra in his inaugural season as its music director, the compelling performance … revealed new dimensions of his artistry.”

— The New York Times, January 17, 2019

“Van Zweden gives a splashing rendition [of Stravinsky’s The Rite of Spring]. The energy is palpable. If that energy is a harbinger of the van Zweden era, then many extraordinary things will be happening in New York.”

— De Telegraaf, September 21, 2018

“Each of [van Zweden’s] programs has opened with a compelling performance of an ambitious premiere.”

— The New York Times, October 7, 2018

(over)
“It was impressive to hear the subtleties of texture in van Zweden’s account of Debussy’s _La Mer_ — although forces of wind and waves were hardly shortchanged. A thrilling performance.”

— _The Dallas Morning News_, October 11, 2018

“Mr. van Zweden conducted [Bruckner’s] Eighth Symphony as if he had an answer for every query. Phrase to phrase, episode to episode, everything sounded purposeful.”

— _The New York Times_, September 28, 2018

“Thrilling, bracing, and inexorable, as it was born to be…. These are the good old days.”

— _New Criterion_, January 21, 2019

“It was evident from the start that here was a conductor with a clear map in his head and a firm hand on the tiller.”

— _Musical America_, October 1, 2018

“Van Zweden’s direction was as masterful as the orchestra’s playing.”

— _New York Classical Review_, September 28, 2018

“Van Zweden and the Philharmonic gave a very impressive performance, eliciting much power and dynamism…. Van Zweden paced the approach brilliantly, so that the highpoint felt as if the sky had opened.”

— _Classical Source_, September 29, 2018

“The New York Philharmonic has a great conductor [and] the audience… certainly appreciated the performance of [Shostakovich’s] ‘Leningrad,’ which was exciting as hell. They roared and roared.”

— _The New Criterion_, December 3, 2018

 “[Jaap van Zweden’s] inaugural season has burst out of the gate with bombast, shaking the roof of David Geffen Hall. But this week, the Maestro proves he can also maneuver in a lower gear.”

— _Cadenza_, December 6, 2018

“The orchestra under van Zweden was transparent. Dynamics increased almost imperceptibly till the full sound of the closing chords, a masterful collaboration of maestro [and] musicians.”

— _Bachtrack_, December 13, 2018