

BIOGRAPHY

EVGENII SAKMAROV

Season 2021-2022

As of 8th of February 2022

"Evgenii is endowed with a very sensitive musicality, an innate sense of gesture and rhythm. He has already great experience working with professional orchestras. Evgenii is committed to excellence, is an assiduous learner, and has a very nice personality. Given all his human, musical, and conducting abilities, I am convinced that he has a very bright future." (Neeme Järvi)

Russian conductor Evgenii Sakmarov who has held positions such as principal conductor of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Regional Charitable Foundation of the Republic of Tatarstan, "Sforzando" was awarded by Tatneft the grant "Culture and Arts", which brought him in 2019 to Canada, Montreal. Evgenii currently pursues further studies at the University of Montreal as a symphony orchestra conductor in the Ph.D. program under the tutelage of Professors Jean-François Rivet and Paolo Bellomia. Last Autumn he already successfully defended in the French language his doctoral thesis with a focus on Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances*, which he will conduct this coming spring during his final exam. In June 2021 Sakmarov received the "Graduate Scholarship" from the University of Montreal's Faculty of Music for academic excellence.

Evgenii Sakmarov was born in Almetyevsk, a small city in Russia, in the Republic of Tatarstan where he was enrolled in a Music School and Music College. From an early age, Evgenii possessed leadership qualities, and his love for symphonic music led him to the decision to study orchestral conducting after he graduated from Music College as a classical accordionist. At the age of 18, he moved to Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan, where he graduated from the renowned Kazan State Conservatory and completed a conducting assistant study. Already during his university years, he taught orchestral conducting at the Kazan Music College and at the Kazan Conservatory.

As a conductor, he made his debut with the Tatarstan National Symphony Orchestra at the Saydashev State Great Concert Hall in Kazan. Thereupon, re-invitations followed, whereby Evgenii conducted several concert programs during the 2016-2017 season, working closely with the Principal Conductor Alexander Sladkovsky.

From 2016-2019 Evgenii Sakmarov was the principal conductor of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of the Regional Charitable Foundation of the Republic of Tatarstan, "Sforzando". During these years, he has significantly increased the professional level and overall status of the orchestra and established a great reputation in the musical and social life of the Republic of Tatarstan and Russia. Under his leadership, the orchestra won the 2017 Russian Presidential Grants Fund and has been very active in concert programs such as XXVII Summer Universiade, FIFA WORLD CUP 2018, and WorldSkills 2019 in Kazan. Only during Sakmarov's last year of work with the orchestra, more than 80 concerts were performed, including a guest performance at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow. The orchestra conducted by

Evgeny Sakmarov according to critics sounds new, fresh, and refined.

During Sakmarov's tenurship as principal conductor, the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Tatarstan presented many symphonic programs, as well as opera productions including Rachmaninov's *Aleko*, Mozart's *Bastien and Bastienne*, Menotti's *The Telephone*, Anisimov's *Viy*, Abdullina's *Berenika* and *1+6*, Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, Piazzolla's *María de Buenos Aires*, Fried's *The Diary of Anne Frank*, among others. In 2018, Fried's opera *The Diary of Anne Frank* received the Tantana (Triumph) Award, one of the most important and prestigious awards in the musical world of Tatarstan.

"Under Evgenii Sakmarov's conducting the orchestra was very thorough, and even from behind the singers he managed to 'catch' all the beginnings and meter-rhythmic musical "stitches"." Elena Cheremnykh (leading music critic for Musical Life Magazine, Moscow) about the concert performance of Mozart's opera *Bastien and Bastienne* at the Great Concert Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

Evgenii Sakmarov participated in major national and international projects and festivals, including performances at the Minbar Muslim Film Festival, Night of Museums at the Kazan Kremlin, Music Around Us, Parks and Squares, The Kremlin Evenings, Concert for the Victory Day in the Kazan Kremlin, concert programs in honour of the Year of Japan in Russia, performances at the Days of Street Arts Open Air festival, "étoiles montantes", Sergei Bezrukov's project "The Little Prince", recording of Airat Ichmouratov's music on the "CHANDOS" label, and many others. He has also conducted such orchestras as the Academic Symphony Orchestra of the Moscow Philharmonic (Principal Conductor Yuri Simonov), the Chamber Orchestra of the Kostroma Philharmonic, the symphony orchestras of the Kazan Conservatory, and the University of Montreal (Canada).

Sakmarov is listed in Volume III of the Book of Philanthropists of the Republican Foundation for Restoration of Monuments of History and Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan.

Evgenii has studied and taken part in masterclasses with celebrated conductors such as Neeme Järvi, Rafael Peyar, Jukka Pekka Saraste, Yuri Simonov, Adrian McDonnell, Günther Stegmüller, Jean-François Reve, Paolo Belomia among others.