

Terje Mikkelsen was born in Norway in 1957. He studied at the Norwegian State Music Academy and with Jorma Panula at the Sibekius Academy in Helsinki, Finland, where he received his diploma in Orchestra conducting in 1989. From 1984 he also studied with Mariss Jansons, with whom he collaborated closely both in St. Petersburg and Oslo until 1991. Terje Mikkelsen conducted the Ukrainian State Orchestra in Kiew from 1989-95. In 1993 the Orchestra appointed him Chief Conductor and Music Director. From 1990-1995 he was Principal Guest Conductor of the Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra. Besides the usual concert schedule, he undertook tours with the orchestra and recorded for television and radio. In addition, three CDs with works by Edvard Grieg resulted from this collaboration.



In 1997 Terje Mikkelsen became the Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra in Riga. This collaboration has resulted in over 20 CD recordings including three discs of music by Johan Svendsen, as well as three discs by Johan Halvorsen. Several Discs are in production consisting of Latvian and international music. Together they have been touring Germany, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Japan, Spain and Belgium, playing over 70 concerts. In 1999 he was appointed Chief Conductor and GMD of Thuringen Philharmony Gotha-Suhl. With this orchestra he has toured France, Spain, Thailand and Germany.

Since 2001 he is professor at the college of music of the Mahidol University, Bangkok. Terje Mikkelsen appears regularly with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic and the Moscow Radio Orchestra. He has conducted such renowned orchestras as the Warsaw Philharmonic, Cologne Radio Orchestra (WDR), Hamburg Radio Orchestra (NDR), Rotterdam Radio Orchestra, Belgian Radio Orchestra, BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonia Hongarica. He has conducted in most of the important halls in Europe, including the Berlin Philharmony, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Munich Philharmony, Cologne Philharmony, Auditorium National (Madrid) etc.

Terje Mikkelsen is the Principal Conductor of Shanghai Symphony Orchestra since 2006. Terje Mikkelsen has worked with the Moscow Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra regularly since 1993, and from the season 2009-2010 he will continue the collaboration as the orchestra's Principal Guest Conductor.