

## Paavo Berglund

Described as the Grand Old Man of Finnish conductors, Paavo Berglund (b. 1929) began playing the violin at the age of 11. He joined the Radio Symphony Orchestra as a violinist at the age of 20 and as a conductor at the young age of 33. He worked permanently with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra for three years, and with the Stockholm Philharmonic for four years. He has also conducted the New York Philharmonic and the Berlin Philharmonic orchestras as well as the European Chamber Orchestra.

He was, of course, not a student, but a colleague of Jorma Panula. Yet, he seems to follow the same principles taught to the young conductors today: no nonsense, hard work and by expecting much of the

musicians he works with.

Paavo Berglund was the first Finnish conductor to record the complete Sibelius symphonies and to export the music of Sibelius to the world arenas. He is considered to be a Sibelius expert and even met the maestro once, receiving some advice as a violinist. Later on, he worked on the published scores of the Seventh Symphony, correcting its printing errors. He also consulted the printing house when similar work was carried out with the scores of the other symphonies.

As a personality he has been likened to the Sibelius symphonies: Finnish grey granite – solid, yet amazingly alive.

