



GERGELY MADARAS

Conductor

In the 2019/20 season Gergely Madaras begins his tenure as Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège in Belgium. As well as curating several series in Liège and at the Bozar in Brussels, his inaugural season includes three CD recordings, a continued collaboration with Mezzo HD (Artist of the Month September 2019) as well as a tour to the Bucharest Enescu Festival. Gergely also continues as Chief Conductor of the Savaria Symphony Orchestra in his native Hungary, a post he occupies since 2014.

Having forged strong professional relationships throughout Europe, Gergely regularly appears as a guest conductor with orchestras including the BBC Symphony, Hallé, BBC Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre National de Lyon, Filarmonica della Scala, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, Hungarian National Philharmonic and Hungarian Radio orchestras, the Copenhagen, Oslo, Bergen, Luxembourg and Warsaw National philharmonic orchestras as well as with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Münchener Kammerorchester and Academy of Ancient Music. Further afield, he has appeared with the Melbourne, Queensland and Houston Symphony orchestras.

Highlights of the 2019/20 season include Gergely's debut with Netherlands Philharmonic at Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam, where he will also make a second appearance for his Netherlands Radio Philharmonic debut in August 2020. Gergely has further debuts with BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Norwegian Radio Orchestra and the chamber orchestras of Lausanne and Geneva. Gergely returns once more to the Hallé for several UK appearances throughout the season. Other re-invitations include Philharmonia Orchestra, Orchestre National de Montpellier, BBC Scottish Symphony and the BBC Singers.

The previous season saw Gergely opening the 2018 Milano Musica Festival at La Scala, his debut at the Philharmonie de Paris with the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra, his debuts at the Barbican and Royal Festival Hall in London as well as Suntory Hall in Tokyo.

Last season Gergely concluded his 6-year tenure as Music Director of the Orchestre Dijon Bourgogne. During his years in Dijon he nearly tripled the orchestra's regular audience and reconnected the organization to its home city by reshaping the repertoire and re-integrating the ensemble into the main season of the Dijon Auditorium.

While Gergely is grounded in the core classical and romantic repertoire, he maintains a close relationship with new music. He has collaborated closely with composers Geroge Benjamin, Péter Eötvös, György Kurtág, Tristan Murail, Luca Francesconi and Pierre Boulez, for whom he served as assistant conductor at the Lucerne Festival Academy between 2011-2013. He conducted over 100 works written after 1970, including many world premieres. At the age of 18, he founded a festival for young composers in Budapest with his wife, flautist Noemi Gyori. During its six-year run, the festival oversaw the première of 120 compositions by 47 composers.

Gergely has also established a fine reputation as an opera conductor. In 2012 he was the inaugural Sir Charles Mackerras Fellow at the English National Opera. The fellowship culminated in his debut with the company, where he conducted Simon McBurney's new production of *Magic Flute* at the London Coliseum. Since then he has conducted highly praised productions of *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Otello*, *La traviata*, *La Bohème* and *Lucia di Lammermoor* at such houses as the Dutch National Opera, Grand Théâtre de Genève (with Orchestre de la Suisse Romande) and Hungarian State Opera, among others. Prompted by a keen interest in re-discovering rarely performed works, Gergely has also conducted productions of Goldmark's *Ein Wintermärchen*, Grieg's *Peer Gynt*, Barber's *Vanessa*, Donizetti's *Viva la Mamma* and Offenbach's *Fantasio*.

Gergely is a regular guest at the major music festivals such as Lucerne, Gstaad, Milano Musica, Festival d'Automne à Paris, Septembre Musical Montreux, MiTo Settembre Musica, Budapest Spring Festival, Bucharest Enescu Festival and Tokyo Stradivarius Festival, and he has been a conducting fellow at Tanglewood and Aspen. He regularly collaborates with world-renowned soloists such as Patricia Kopatchinskaya, Renaud Capuçon, Vilde Frang, Denis Kozhukhin, Victor Julien-Laferrrière, Alexander Gavrylyuk, Eliso Virsaladze, Francois Leleux, Sharon Kam just to name but a few, as well as with his compatriots Kristóf Baráti, Dezső Ránki, István Várdai and Barnabás Kelemen.

Born in Budapest in 1984, Gergely first began studying folk music with the last generation of authentic Hungarian Gipsy and peasant musicians at the age of five. He then went on to study classical flute, violin and composition, graduating from the flute faculty of the Liszt Academy in Budapest, as well as the conducting faculty of the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, where he studied with Mark Stringer. Besides his varied musical activities, Gergely retains a deep passion for Magyar music, and is an ambitious advocate of Bartók, Kodály and Dohnányi. Having conducted nearly all the orchestral repertoire of these composers, he makes regular performances, recordings and broadcasts of this oeuvre with different orchestras worldwide.

In addition to nurturing new audiences, keeping a lively connection to the younger generation of professional musicians is essential to him. In 2002, at the age of 17, he founded the Budapest Youth Symphony Orchestra together with Noemi Gyori. The ensemble consisted of 60 young professionals, and actively toured for three seasons in Hungary, Germany and Switzerland. Between 2010-2012 he held the prestigious Junior Fellowship in Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, receiving mentorship from Sir Mark Elder. Since the end of his tenure, he annually returns to work with the different orchestras and ensembles of the RNCM.

Besides the Lucerne Festival Academy, where he returned for five summers, Gergely also maintains a close relationship with the European Philharmonic of Switzerland, an international orchestra assembled by alumni of the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester, who now hold positions at the world's top orchestras. Past collaborations with academy students and young professionals included a joint concert between the orchestras of the Royal Academy of Music (London) and Tokyo Geidai, and a gala concert with the Symphony Orchestra of the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest.

In 2011 Gergely received the Junior Prima Prize, awarded for the most outstanding young artists in Hungary, and in the same year he was a finalist at the Besançon International Competition for Young Conductors, winning the Arte Live Web prize.

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October 2019

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