

FRANÇOIS-XAVIER ROTH

CONDUCTOR

‘A modern-day musical Midas’

Royal Philharmonic Society Awards

One of today’s most imaginative conductors and programmers, François-Xavier Roth is a charismatic communicator with a voracious intellectual curiosity. He brings fresh perspectives to every kind of classical music, whether performing Baroque music and Stravinsky on original instruments, leading large-scale iconic modern masterpieces, or presenting standard favourites.

Roth enters his second season as Chief Conductor of SWR Symphonieorchester with a characteristically diverse and imaginative programme spanning both old and new music. His intellectual fascination with the aesthetic, acoustical, historical and emotional dimensions of music leads to unusual and compelling combinations of repertoire. Highlights this season include concerts pairing Richard Strauss’s *Ein Heldenleben* with Philippe Manoury’s Violin Concerto, and an SWR commission of a new cello work by Francesca Verunelli with Rameau’s *Les Indes galantes* and Haydn’s *Harmoniemesse*.

Roth is a fierce advocate for new music, and has worked closely with composers including Boulez, Lachenmann and Rihm. He brings this open approach and insight into the composition process to his work with the classical music canon, finding new sounds and fresh interpretations that remain authentic and true to historic composers. His extensive and award-winning discography represents this outlook, ranging from Beethoven and Schumann, through Bruckner and Bizet, to Ligeti and Feldman.

A natural leader, Roth brings charisma and authority to leading musicians and artists in ambitious, large-scale projects. This season, these include a live performance of Luigi Nono’s *Prometeo* at Elbphilharmonie and Martin Matalon’s score for Fritz Lang’s *Metropolis*. In 2023, he spearheaded celebrations marking Ligeti’s centenary year, curating a two-week festival at Maison de la Radio et de la Musique that included Ligeti’s provocative masterpiece *Le Grand Macabre*.

He is equally committed to sharing music on a more personal scale, championing its universal power to create connection and foster well-being. In the coming season, he leads the SWR Symphonieorchester in an event for World Alzheimer’s Day, as well as a multi-generational project based on Ravel’s *Boléro*. As Founder and Music Director of Les Siècles, he established the Jeune Orchestre Européen Hector Berlioz, and during his time as General Music Director of the Gürzenich Orchester Cologne, he initiated the Bürgerorchester and Bürgerchor, a community orchestra and choir.

MAESTRO*ARTS*

He was awarded the German Record Critics' Honorary Prize 2020, the youngest conductor ever to receive it. He was made a Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur in 2017 and given the Royal Philharmonic Society Conductor Award in 2024, with the jury citation describing him as a 'modern-day musical Midas'.

Guest conducting appearances (2026–27)

Saito Kinen Orchestra at Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival, Berlin Philharmonic, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Rotterdam Philharmonic

Recent recording releases

Mahler: Das Lied von der Erde with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Morton Feldman: The Viola in My Life with Gürzenich-Orchestra (Harmonia Mundi)
Anthologie 'Les Siècles au Théâtre des Champs-Élysées': Lalo, Debussy, Roussel, Dukas (Harmonia Mundi)
György Ligeti: Violin Concerto. Concert Românesc. Piano Concerto (with KURTÁG: Aus der Ferne III & V for string quartet) with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Stravinsky: Le Rossignol with Les Siècles (Erato)
Bizet: Djamileh with Les Siècles (Bru Zane)
Bruckner: Symphony no.1 & 2 with Gürzenich Orchestra (Myrios Classics)
Bruckner: Symphony no.9 with Gürzenich Orchestra (Myrios Classics)
Bruckner: Symphony no.3 with Gürzenich Orchestra (Myrios Classics)
Bruckner: Symphony no.4 with Gürzenich Orchestra (Myrios Classics)
Saint-Saëns: Symphonic Poems, Le Carnaval des Animaux with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Ligeti: Violin, Piano & Romanesc Concertos with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Ligeti: Six Bagatelles, Chamber Concerto with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Ravel: Bolero and L'heure espagnole with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Stravinsky: Violin Concerto, chamber works (Harmonia Mundi)
Les Nuits de Paris with Les Siècles (Bru Zane)
Mahler: Symphony no.4 with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Ravel: Piano Concertos and Melodies with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Debussy: Pelléas et Mélisande with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Bruckner: Symphony no.7 with Gürzenich Orchestra (Myrios Classics)
Saint-Saëns: Symphony no.3 and Piano Concerto no. 4 with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Strauss: Don Quixote and Til Eulenspiegel with Gürzenich Orchestra (Harmonia Mundi)
Schumann: Symphonies nos.1 and 4 with Gürzenich Orchestra (Myrios Classics)
Beethoven: Symphony no.3 and Méhul: Overture, Les Amazones (Harmonia Mundi)
Beethoven: Symphony no.5 and Gossec Symphony in 17 Parts (Harmonia Mundi)
Debussy/Ravel with London Symphony Orchestra (LSO Live)
Mussorgsky/Ravel with Les Siècles (Harmonia Mundi)
Saint-Saëns: Le Timbre d'argent with Les Siècles (Palazzetto Bru Zane)
Panufnik Legacies III with London Symphony Orchestra (LSO Live)