

JACK SHEEN

CONDUCTOR AND COMPOSER

‘A welcome blaze of fierceness, imagined with perfect precision’

The Daily Telegraph

Jack Sheen is a conductor and composer from Manchester who moves easily between orchestral music, opera, installations and interdisciplinary performance. Recognised for his inventive approach to music-making, his programmes and projects often place contemporary music in wider contexts and outside traditional settings. His compositional understanding and discipline underpin interpretations of core repertoire that have been praised for their precision and insight, leading to frequent return invitations.

As a conductor, Sheen works with leading orchestras, including London Symphony Orchestra and BBC Symphony Orchestra, and contemporary music groups such as Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra and London Sinfonietta. Future debuts include with Hamburg Symphony and Luxembourg Philharmonic, and this season he returns to Klangforum Wien, only a year after his debut there.

Equally at home in opera, Sheen made his Royal Opera House debut in 2022, conducting the world premiere of Oliver Leith and Matt Copson’s *Last Days*, returning to conduct the work’s revival in 2025. In 2024 he conducted a new production of Stravinsky’s *The Rake’s Progress* for English Touring Opera, described by The Guardian as ‘incisive’ and ‘wonderfully precise’, and returned to Tanglewood Music Center as Guest Conductor for Sir George Benjamin’s *Lessons in Love and Violence*.

Beyond traditional classical music formats, Sheen develops interdisciplinary projects spanning concert music, spatial performance, installation and long-duration projects, working in collaboration with artists such as Matthew Barney, Cerith Wyn Evans, Burrows & Fargion and Elaine Mitchener. Current projects include two new large-scale performance-installation collaborations with visual artists Anri Sala and Louise Giovanelli. In 2024 he co-directed London Sinfonietta in a rare live performance of Beckett’s *Quad* at Southbank Centre, paired with Feldman’s *For Samuel Beckett*. Other recent projects include *Lag*, a spatialised orchestral work, commissioned by BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Ilan Volkov for Tectonics Festival, and *Ceremony Container*, a large-scale performance-installation commissioned by Ensemble Mosaik and Berlin’s Silent Green.

Sheen’s own works have been commissioned and performed by organisations including Venice Biennale Musica, Ensemble Mosaik, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Casa

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de Serralves, the V&A and Camden Art Centre. In the coming season he premieres a new orchestral work co-commissioned by Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, BBC Symphony Orchestra and WDR Sinfonieorchester [MORE DETAIL?]. Recent premieres include *Press*, a piano quintet commissioned by Wigmore Hall and Apartment House, and *Sasebo* for flute, accordion, cello and pre-recorded sound, commissioned by Wien Modern.

As Co-Director of London Contemporary Music Festival, Sheen has curated ambitious cross-disciplinary programmes bringing together internationally established and emerging artists from music, dance and visual art. The festival has become one of Europe's most exciting platforms for experimental and contemporary work, praised by *The New York Times* as 'adventurous and provocative' and *The Daily Telegraph* as 'vastly ambitious and massively popular'.

Awards and residencies include the Ernst von Siemens Foundation Progetto Positano Residency, PRS Composers' Fund, the Royaumont Voix Nouvelle Composition Prize, Royal Philharmonic Society Prize for Composition and BBC Young Composer of the Year. In 2026 he was announced as a Wigmore Hall Associate Artist.

His music has been broadcast internationally and released on labels including LSO Live, Black Truffle, The Trilogy Tapes, SN Variations and NMC.