

MAAYAN FRANCO CONDUCTOR

‘He captured the piece’s big emotions in expansive yet precise gestures’

The Scotsman

Still in his 20s, Maayan Franco’s career has developed rapidly in both opera and new music, having worked with major orchestras, festivals and conductors from a young age. Since 2025, he has served as Associate Conductor at Vienna Volksoper, appointed soon after making his debut there conducting Sondheim’s *Follies*.

Franco’s stage experience ranges from the opera canon to musical theatre, and reflects his growing reputation for theatrical insight and stylistic flexibility. At Vienna Volksoper he has conducted *Die Zauberflöte*, Pergolesi’s *Stabat Mater* and *Im weißen Rössl*. Previously, he conducted *La Cenerentola*, *Hänsel und Gretel* and *Die Zauberflöte* at Jerusalem Lyric Opera Festival. Operatic engagements include as assistant at Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, Staatsoper Berlin, Israeli Opera, Konzerthaus Wien and Stuttgart Staatsoper. He has also conducted *Cabaret* and *The Sound of Music* at Vienna Volksoper.

Committed to new music, Franco was appointed as a Lucerne Festival Conducting Fellow in 2021, working with Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra, and made his debut with Ensemble Modern at Oper Frankfurt in 2022. He has assisted Ilan Volkov in contemporary music projects with ensembles including BBC Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble intercontemporain and Berlin Staatskapelle, conducting works by composers including Christofer Fox, Hugues Dufourt, Jennifer Walshe, Casandra Miller and Olga Neuwirth. When he was only 20, he prepared and conducted ORF Radio-Symphonieorchester Wien at Wien Modern festival, and conducted off-stage music at the BBC Proms. He made his debut conducting BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at Volkov’s Tectonics in 2023. He explores new music programmes regularly with Ensemble Meitar and Ensemble 21.

Equally at home with classical repertoire, Franco returns annually to Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra to conduct programmes featuring masterpieces from Dvořák’s ‘New World’ To Brahms symphonies. Originally trained as a percussionist and flute player in his native Israel, Franco performed around the world, including at Berlin’s Philharmonie Kammermusiksaal and San Jose Theater in California.