

MATTHEW STRAW CONDUCTOR

Matthew Straw's approach to conducting reflects a voracious curiosity and an instinct to engage with music from a variety of perspectives. His experience across opera and the concert hall, alongside his work as an arranger, keyboard player and singer, has given him a practical understanding of voices, instruments and theatre, informing his work across Europe and the US.

His two-year position as Assistant Conductor at Opéra national du Rhin included conducting Lotte de Beer's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* on tour at Opéra de Reims and culminated in conducting Laurent Pelly's production of *Gypsy* as Musical Director. He opened Strasbourg Philharmonic's 2026–27 season conducting tenor Michael Spyres in a gala that included music by Strauss and Wagner, as well as the premieres of his own Wagner arrangements, *Siegmond Suite* and *Lovers Suite*.

As Assistant Conductor of Utah Symphony for the 2023–24 season, Straw worked with Creative Partner David Robertson and Music Director Emeritus Thierry Fischer and conducted the orchestra in more than 70 performances. He has also served as Assistant Conductor with Kazushi Ono and Brussels Philharmonic, Ilan Volkov and ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Pierre Dumoussaud at Opéra Comique and at the Salzburg Festival. He conducted the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at Interlochen in 2024, as well as Des Moines Metro Opera, New World Symphony and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Straw took part in the 2025 Bayreuth Festival Conducting Masterclass, working with Semyon Bychkov, as well as Christian Thielemann, Simone Young, Daniele Gatti and Pablo Heras-Casado. He has also participated in masterclasses with Stéphane Denève, Cristian Măcelaru, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Neeme, Paavo Järvi, Michael Tilson-Thomas and Robert Spano.

Growing up in a musical family of choral conductors and voice teachers, Straw fell in love with opera while studying voice with his father and accompanying his students. His repertoire now spans 20 titles, ranging from standard German, French and Italian repertoire to new American opera and musical theatre. His expertise in and enthusiasm for Wagner have led him to create Wagner X For All, an open-access project exploring new ways to make the composer's music accessible to a wider range of performers and audiences through his own arrangements, as well as visual designs, bespoke formats and performances.

Straw was the youngest ever recipient of a Solti Foundation Career Assistance Award in 2022, going on to win it again in 2023, 2024 and 2025. In addition, he received the Helen F. Whitaker Conducting Fellowship at the 2019 Aspen Conducting Academy. He studied at Oberlin College and Conservatory and with Mark Stringer at the University of Music and the Performing Arts in Vienna.