

MATTHEW STRAW CONDUCTOR

Conductor Matthew Straw enjoys meaningful artistic collaborations with orchestras and opera companies on both sides of the Atlantic. His two-year position as Assistant Conductor at Opéra national du Rhin culminated in conducting Laurent Pelly's production of *Gypsy* as Musical Director last season. On the strength of this production, he has been re-invited to open Strasbourg Philharmonic's 2026–27 season, conducting tenor Michael Spyres in a gala including music by Wagner and Strauss. As Assistant Conductor of Utah Symphony for the 2023–24 season, he worked with Creative Partner David Robertson and Music Director Emeritus Thierry Fischer and conducted the orchestra in more than 70 performances.

As Assistant Conductor, Straw has also worked with Kazushi Ono and Brussels Philharmonic, Ilan Volkov and ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, and Pierre Dumoussaud at Opéra Comique. In 2024 he conducted the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at Interlochen. He has also conducted Des Moines Metro Opera, New World Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and at Salzburg Festival, and has 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.

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 studies with Mark Stringer at the University of Music and the Performing Arts in Vienna.