

ROBERT HOUSSART

CONDUCTOR

‘The direction entrusted to Robert Houssart is precise and measured. Everything is clear and well controlled, without weakening the Dantesque effects of Adès’ composition which take hold of the audience’

Lara Othman, Olyrix, The Exterminating Angel, Opéra national de Paris

Robert Houssart has brought the improvisatory flexibility of his early organ training to opera and new music. He served as Resident Conductor at Royal Danish Opera until 2024, where he conducted the world premiere of Hans Abrahamsen’s *The Snow Queen*, and enjoys a close relationship with new music ensemble Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen.

Houssart made his debut with the Australian premiere of Ligeti’s *Le Grand Macabre* at the Adelaide Festival, and early in his career worked at La Monnaie, English National Opera, Opera North and Opéra Comique, as well as Theater an der Wien, where he conducted the world premiere of Anno Schreier’s *Hamlet*. Since 2014 he has worked regularly with Royal Danish Opera and Royal Danish Ballet, and has conducted more than 200 performances there, including new operas such as Louise Alenius’s *Manualen*, Thomas Adès’s *The Exterminating Angel* and *Powder Her Face*, and David Bruce’s *Nothing*, alongside core repertoire including Mozart, Strauss and Wagner, and his advocacy of Entartete Musik.

In the coming seasons, debuts and returns include at Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden, Opéra national de Paris, Opéra National du Rhin, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Royal Danish Opera, Teatr Wielki Opera Narodowa and Opernhaus Zürich.

Houssart was born in Haarlem, Netherlands, and raised in England, graduating from St John’s College, Cambridge, and the Royal Northern College of Music. As an organist, he appeared as a soloist all over Europe, making several recordings and winning major prizes for improvisation. He is active as a chamber musician at the piano and pursues an interest in jazz.