

ROBERT HOUSSART

CONDUCTOR

‘Under the precise and inspired direction of Robert Houssart, the orchestra’s shimmering colours unfolded in abundance without respite, never tiring the ear’

Catharine Jordy, Forum Opéra, Das Wunder der Heliane, Opéra national du Rhin

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 many world and Danish premieres, including 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, and Theater an der Wien. Since 2014 he has worked regularly with Royal Danish Opera and Royal Danish Ballet, and has conducted more than 300 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 Dutch National Opera, Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden, Opéra national de Paris, Opéra National du Rhin, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Royal Danish Opera 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.