



IMG Artists

## Jonathon Heyward, conductor

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Jonathon Heyward is forging a career as one of the most exciting young conductors on the international scene. Winner of the 2015 Besançon International Conducting Competition, Jonathon was selected as a Los Angeles Philharmonic Dudamel Conducting Fellow for the 2017-2018 season, later stepping in to make his subscription debut with Hilary Hahn as part of the orchestra's Bernstein @ 100 Celebration at Walt Disney Concert Hall. The LA Times declared that he had "forged a seamless connection among the music, the orchestra, and the audience" and that "his concert augurs great things to come".

Currently in his first year as a Chief Conductor of the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, Jonathon recently completed three years as Assistant Conductor of the Hallé Orchestra, conducting his first subscription concert with Benjamin Grosvenor in 2018. Other notable moments with the ensemble include: a 200th birthday concert for the orchestra's founder Sir Charles Hallé; a finalist nomination for Young Creative of the Year at the Manchester Culture Awards 2018, in recognition of his extensive community outreach work and commitment to music education as Music Director of the Hallé Youth Orchestra; and a "roaringly bold account" (Bachtrack) of Shostakovich's thrilling Leningrad Symphony, marking Jonathon's debut at the Manchester International Festival and culmination of his tenure in Manchester.

Hailed by Sir Mark Elder as "a bright rising star of the conducting world", Jonathon looks forward to a remarkable summer as he makes number of exciting debuts amongst which are BBC Proms debut with Nicola Benedetti and the musicians of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain; the Antwerp Symphony debut conducting the laureates of the Queen Elisabeth 2021 Piano Competition at the Koningin Elisabethzaal in Antwerp. This summer, forthcoming is also Jonathon's Wolf Trap debut conducting the National Symphony Orchestra.

Jonathon's recent and forthcoming highlights include debut and re-invitations with the London Symphony, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and BBC Symphony in the UK; Baltimore, Atlanta, Detroit, Seattle, Oregon Symphony and Grant Park Music Festival in the United States; Castilla y León, Basel, Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Brussels Philharmonic, Orchestre National de Lille, St Petersburg Symphony and Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne across Europe.

Equally at home on the opera stage, Jonathon recently made his Royal Opera House debut with Hannah Kendall's *Knife of Dawn*, having also conducted a Kurt Weill's *Lost in the Stars* with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra as well as the world premiere of Giorgio Battistelli's new opera, *Wake*, for the Birmingham Opera Company.

Originally trained as a cellist and chamber musician, Jonathon went on to take up the position of Assistant Conductor for both their opera department and the Boston Opera Collaborative, where he worked on such productions as *La Bohème*, *Die Zauberflöte*, and *The Rape of Lucretia*. In 2013, Jonathon became the youngest ever semi-finalist at the Blue Danube International Opera Conducting Competition at the age of 21, and, soon after, was appointed Associate Director of the Hampstead Garden Opera Company in London. In 2016, he completed his postgraduate studies in conducting with Sian Edwards at the Royal Academy of Music, and in 2020, was named an Associate of the Royal Academy as well as a Sir Georg Solti Fellow.

### Jonathon Heyward 2020-2021 Season Biography

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