

Nicholas McGegan

Conductor



“conducted with implacable intensity by McGegan...”

Tim Ashley, *The Guardian*

In his sixth decade on the podium, **Nic McGegan** is internationally recognised as one of the leading interpreters of Baroque and Classical repertoire, and as a pioneer in bringing historically informed performance practice to modern orchestras. Described by *The Independent* as “one of the finest baroque conductors of his generation” and by *The New Yorker* as “an expert in 18th-century style”, he has built a career spanning opera, orchestral music and an extensive discography.

McGegan served as Music Director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale for 34 years, from 1985 to 2020, during which time he led nearly 1,000 performances and made 40 recordings with the ensemble. He is now Music Director Emeritus. He is also Principal Guest Conductor of Hungary's Capella Savaria, with whom he has enjoyed a long-standing recording and performing partnership.

Opera has played a central role throughout his career. As Artistic Director of the Göttingen Handel Festival for 20 years, from 1991 to 2011, he conducted close to twenty Handel operas and established himself as a major authority on the composer. He was also Principal Guest Conductor at Scottish Opera during the 1990s, where his work focused particularly on Mozart, and Principal Conductor of Sweden's historic Drottningholm Court Theatre from 1993 to 1996.

Beyond the period-instrument world, McGegan has been instrumental in introducing historically informed approaches to major symphony orchestras. He has appeared with the New York, Los Angeles and Hong Kong Philharmonics; Chicago, Dallas, Toronto, Sydney and New Zealand Symphonies; the Philadelphia Orchestra; Royal Northern Sinfonia; Scottish Chamber Orchestra; City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, among many others. His repertoire extends beyond Baroque and Classical music to Romantic, twentieth century and contemporary works.

McGegan's discography encompasses more than 100 recordings across five decades,

including over 50 albums devoted to Handel. His recordings with Philharmonia Baroque include two GRAMMY-nominated releases, while his extensive collaboration with Capella Savaria has embraced composers including Handel, Monteverdi, Scarlatti, Telemann, Vivaldi, Mozart, Haydn, Schubert and Mendelssohn.

Recent European engagements include the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Aalborg, Oulu and Antwerp Symphony Orchestras, as well as Handel's Deborah with the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover, Giulio Cesare with Irish Baroque Orchestra and *Le nozze di Figaro* for the Royal Danish Opera.

English-born, McGegan was educated at Cambridge and Oxford and was appointed OBE for services to music overseas. His other honours include the Halle Handel Prize, the Order of Merit of Lower Saxony and honorary distinctions from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Georg-August University Göttingen.

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