

Nicholas McGegan

Conductor



“conducted with implacable intensity by McGegan...”
Tim Ashley, *The Guardian*

In his sixth decade on the podium, **Nic McGegan** — long hailed as “one of the finest baroque conductors of his generation” (*The Independent*) and “an expert in 18th-century style” (*The New Yorker*) — is recognized for his probing and revelatory explorations of music of all periods. Following a 34-year tenure as Music Director of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale, Nicholas is delighted to have been appointed Music Director Emeritus. In his new role, he will lead a series of performances in January and February of this season. He led the ensemble from 1985 to 2020, producing 40 recordings and nearly 1000 performances in that span.

He is also Principal Guest Conductor of Hungary’s Capella Savaria. At home in opera houses, McGegan shone new light on close to twenty Handel operas as the Artistic Director and conductor at Germany’s Göttingen Handel Festival for 20 years (1991-2011), and the Mozart canon as Principal Guest

Conductor at Scottish Opera in the 1990s. He was also Principal Conductor of Sweden’s Drottningholm Court Theatre from 1993-1996.

Best known as a baroque and classical specialist, McGegan has been a pioneer in broadening the reach of historically informed practice beyond the world of period ensembles to conventional symphonic forces. His guest-conducting appearances with major orchestras — including the New York, Los Angeles, and Hong Kong Philharmonics; the Chicago, Dallas, Milwaukee, Toronto, Sydney, and New Zealand Symphonies; the Philadelphia Orchestra; the Royal Northern Sinfonia and Scottish Chamber Orchestras; and the Amsterdam Concertgebouw — often feature Baroque repertoire alongside Classical, Romantic, 20th-century and even brand-new works. He has also led performances with the Utah Symphony, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. He collaborates frequently with the Mark Morris Dance Group, including the premiere productions of Rameau’s *Platée* and Handel’s *Acis and Galatea*.

McGegan’s prolific discography includes more than 100 releases spanning five decades. Having recorded over 50 albums of Handel, McGegan has explored the depths of the composer’s output with a dozen oratorios and close to twenty of his operas. Since the 1980s, more than twenty of his recordings have been with Hungary’s Capella Savaria on the Hungaroton label, including groundbreaking opera and oratorio recordings of repertoire by Handel, Monteverdi, Scarlatti, Telemann and Vivaldi. Recently, the collaboration has produced albums of Kraus, Mendelssohn, Schubert, a 2-CD set of the complete Mozart violin concerti, and Haydn’s Symphonies 79, 80, and 81. McGegan has also released three recent albums with the Swedish Chamber Orchestra under the BIS label: Josef Mysliveček’s *Complete Music for Keyboard* with soloist Clare Hammond and two albums of early horn concertos with soloist Alec Frank-Gemmill. His extensive discography with Philharmonia Baroque includes two GRAMMY nominees, Handel’s *Susana* and

Haydn’s Symphonies 104, 88, and 101. McGegan’s recent disk of Mozart violin concertos with Gil Shaham (SWR Music) was released to great acclaim, with McGegan’s musicianship praised as ‘enlightened’.

Mr. McGegan is committed to the next generation of musicians, frequently conducting and coaching at Yale University, the Juilliard School, Harvard University, the Colburn School, Aspen Music Festival and School, Sarasota Music Festival, and the Music Academy of the West. He has been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Music by the San Francisco Conservatory of Music; an honorary professorship at Georg-August University, Göttingen; and in 2016 was the Christoph Wolff Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Harvard. McGegan’s fun and informative lectures have delighted audiences at Juilliard, Yale Center for British Art, American Handel Society, and San Francisco Conservatory.

Recent engagements in Europe include performances with Aalborg Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, Oulu Symphony and Antwerp Symphony Orchestra. He also conducted Handel’s *Deborah* at Herrenhausen with the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover and staged productions of *Giulio Cesare* with Irish Baroque Orchestra and *Le Nozze di Figaro* for the Royal Danish Opera.

English-born, Nic McGegan was educated at Cambridge and Oxford. He was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) “for services to music overseas.” Other awards include the Halle Handel Prize; the Order of Merit of the State of Lower Saxony (Germany); the Medal of Honour of the City of Göttingen, and a declaration of Nicholas McGegan Day, by the Mayor of San Francisco in recognition of his work with Philharmonia.

Valid for use until 1 September 2026
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