

Rory Macdonald

Conductor



“Rory Macdonald draws thrilling, punchy playing from the Royal Scottish National Orchestra”

Graham Rickson, *The Arts Desk*

Rory Macdonald stands out as one of the most engaging British conductors of his generation, leading stylish performances of a notably wide range of operatic and symphonic repertoire.

Engagements recently and in seasons beyond include returns to Oper Frankfurt for *Le nozze di Figaro* and to the Opera Theater of Saint Louis for *The Magic Flute*, as well as a performance with the Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra, the Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie, debuts with the Philharmonia and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and a return to the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Recent highlights include a return to Gothenburg Opera for Stephen Langridge's production of *Le nozze di Figaro*, Romeo Castellucci's staging of Mozart *Requiem* at the Adelaide Festival, and Britten's *Peter Grimes* for the Brisbane Festival with Stuart Skelton. He has led many other acclaimed productions of works by Britten, including new productions of *Owen Wingrave* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; *Albert Herring* for Glyndebourne; *The Turn of the Screw* with Mark Padmore at the Vienna Konzerthaus; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Lyric Opera of Chicago, and *The Rape of Lucretia* at Houston Grand Opera.

Rory made his debut with Oper Frankfurt in 2018/19 with *Così fan tutte* and has conducted new productions of *Die Zauberflöte* for Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Royal Danish Opera and Opera Australia. Other highlights include *Hänsel und Gretel*; *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Royal Opera House); *Fra Diavolo* (Teatro dell'Opera di Roma); *Carmen* (Santa Fe Opera, Canadian Opera, Teatro São Carlos); *Ariadne aux Naxos* (Opera Theatre of Saint Louis); *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Bergen National Opera); *La Fanciulla del West* (Grange Park Opera); *A Village Romeo and Juliet* (Wexford Festival).

On the concert podium Rory's recent engagements include his debut with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, and a return to conduct the Essen Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. In 2018/19, he worked with the London Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony, Sinfonieorchester Wuppertal and returned to the Royal Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, Ulster, and Bournemouth Symphony orchestras. He also returned to Japan, performing with the Nagoya Philharmonic and Kanagawa Philharmonic orchestras.

He recently conducted the première performances of Carl Vine's *Double Piano Concerto* with Kathryn Stott and Piers Lane with both the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra. He has conducted the premieres of works by notable composers such as Sir James Macmillan, Sally Beamish and Geoffrey Gordon. Rory's discography with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra includes an album with Danny Driver for Hyperion, and with Nicola Benedetti for Decca. His recording of symphonies no. 3 and 4 by Thomas Wilson with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra was released in 2019 on Linn Records to critical acclaim, and similarly with symphonies no. 2 and 5 in 2020.

Rory Macdonald studied music at Cambridge University. Whilst there he studied under David Zinman and Jorma Panula at the American Academy of Conducting in Aspen. After graduating from Cambridge, he was appointed assistant conductor to Iván Fischer at the Budapest Festival Orchestra (2001–2003), and to Sir Mark Elder and the Hallé Orchestra (2006–2008). He was also a member of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House (2004–2006), where he worked closely with Antonio Pappano on such major projects as the complete Ring cycle. [➔](#)

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