Matthew Kofi Waldren Conductor

Born in Geneva into a family of mixed British and Ghanaian heritage, Matthew Kofi Waldren has become one of the UK's leading classical conductors. His energetic, collaborative yet detailed approach to musical leadership has resulted in invitations to work in concert and opera with the UK's finest orchestras, opera houses and conservatories. He is particularly well known for his work conducting opera, and has conducted world, and UK premieres as well as much of the core repertoire with the UK's major opera companies. He is known as a specialist in Italian opera and in 2024 was asked to curate a programme celebrating Puccini's centenary for BBC's Friday Night is Music Night. He was nominated at the International Opera Awards (2017), whilst his work at ENO has been twice nominated at the Olivier Awards (*Blue* 2024, *Paul Bunyan* 2019) and the Black British Theatre Awards (Blue 2023).

As co-founder of Your Turn Collective he is known as a passionate advocate for widening access in classical music - for audiences, participants and potential professionals - whilst as a member of the City of London Sinfonia Artists Council he is at the forefront of helping to shape and define the identity, mission, and output of an orchestra in the 21st century.

Recent and forthcoming work includes *HMS Pinafore* (English National Opera), BBCCO (Friday Night is Music Night, Puccini Plus, Radio 3), Sinfonia Viva (Duruflé Requiem, Poulenc Organ Concerto, Vaughan Williams Variations on a Theme by Tallis), Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra (Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn), Gala Concerts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, *Die Zauberflöte* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Opera), *La Fanciulla del West, La traviata, Tosca* (Opera Holland Park), *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (West Green House Opera), *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Silvano* and *I due Foscari* (Chelsea Opera Group), *The Snowmaiden* (RNCM Opera), *Ainadamar* (Welsh National Opera).

Orchestras Matthew has conducted include BBC Concert Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Viva, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of English National Opera, Orchestra of Opera North, Orchestra of Welsh National Opera, Chineke! Orchestra, Chineke! Junior Orchestra, London Mozart Players, City of London Sinfonia, in addition to his work with student conductors,orchestras and singers at Royal Northern College of Music and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Previous engagements include *Blue, Paul Bunyan, The Marriage of Figaro* (English National Opera); *Migrations, Ainadamar* (Welsh National Opera); *The Pearl Fishers, La bohème, La petite bohème, Don Giovanni* (Opera North); *The Chevalier* (London Philharmonic Orchestra); Opera's Greatest Hits (City of Birmingham
Symphony Orchestra); Perfection, of a kind: Britten vs Auden, Come and Sing Messiah (City of London Sinfonia); *Il barbiere di Siviglia, L'elisir d'amore, La cenerentola* (West Green House Opera); *Flight, Gianni Schicchi, Les mamelles de Tirésias* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Opera); *Chineke! celebrates a decade, Chineke! and the Afro-American Symphony, The Eyes of Ghana soundtrack, Elizabeth Line adverts, The Orchestra of Stories* (Chineke! Orchestra); *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Scottish Opera); *Texting Heer* (Royal Opera House R&D); *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (Royal Opera House Linbury Studio, Opera Holland Park, recorded for Signum Classics); *Fantastic Mr Fox* (Harvest, Opera Holland Park); *Yeomen of the Guard* (G&S Opera Company); *Tosca, La traviata, 2020 Opera Galas, Un ballo in maschera, La rondine, La bohème, Lakmé, Il barbiere di Siviglia, Les pecheurs de perles, Gianni Schicchi, Zanetto, Rigoletto* (Opera Holland Park).