John Warner
Conductor



British conductor John Warner is Founder and Artistic Director of Orchestra for the Earth (OE). In September John takes over as Chief Conductor of Musiktheater im Revier, Gelsenkirchen where his first season will include a new production of *Wozzeck, La clemenza di Tito*, Hans Thomalla's *Dark Fall*, and *L'amour des trois Oranges*. This season also includes *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Oxford Opera. Until very recently John was Music Director of both Oxford Opera and Southern Sinfonia.

Recent highlights include debuts with the Athens State Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg and the Franz Schubert Filharmonia, and a return to the Berliner Symphoniker at the Berliner Philharmonie and Konzerthaus. He has appeared with the Orquestra de la Comunitat Valenciana, Slovak State Philharmonic, Armenian Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and BBC Philharmonic, collaborating with artists including Thomas Hampson, Susan Bullock, James Ehnes, Wu Wei and Roman Simovic. In 2025 he received the Mahler Foundation's inaugural Mahler Award at Het Concertgebouw's Mahler Festival in Amsterdam.

In opera, Warner has conducted productions including *La traviata*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *Tosca*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *Die Fledermaus* and *The Atlantis Code* (Frank Schwemmer, world premiere). His operatic work has also taken him to Glyndebourne, Palau de les Arts Valencia and the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées. He has championed underperformed works by women composers, leading productions of operas by Ethel Smyth and Amy Beach.

John Warner founded Orchestra for the Earth in 2018 to pair high-level performance with practical climate and biodiversity engagement. Through OE he brings music and nature together in concerts, education and touring projects developed with environmental partners. He has been invited to create and lead world premieres at the Philharmonie Luxembourg, Het Concertgebouw and the Beijing Music Festival, where he directed a residency featuring new works and Chinese premieres by Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Huang Ruo, Sir George Benjamin and Messiaen.

Earlier in his career he assisted conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Daniel Harding, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Karina Canellakis, Robin Ticciati and Edward Gardner with orchestras and opera houses including the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden, Budapest Festival Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Wiener Symphoniker, Les Siècles and

Glyndebourne.

Warner studied music at the University of Oxford (First Class Honours, 2016; MSt with Distinction, 2017). He won 1st Prize in the Oxford Conducting Competition (2015). He writes for The Wagner Journal, has been published by Routledge and is a guest lecturer at the Curtis Institute and Johns Hopkins University.