

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, British and Welsh 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 BBCCO (*Friday Night is Music Night*, *Puccini Plus*, *Radio 3*), Sinfonia Viva (*Durufié Requiem*, *Poulenc Organ Concerto*, *Vaughan Williams Variations on a Theme by Tallis*), Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (*Tchaikovsky*, *Mendelssohn tbc*), *Die Zauberflöte* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Opera), *La traviata*, *Tosca* (Opera Holland Park), *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (West Green House Opera), *I due Foscari* (Chelsea Opera Group), *The Snowmaiden* (RNCM Opera), *Ainadamar* (Welsh National Opera).

Orchestras Matthew has conducted or is scheduled to conduct include BBC Concert Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonia Viva, London Philharmonic 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); *Price* *Symphony No 3*, *Grant Still Symphony No 1*, *Grieg Piano Concerto*, *Elizabeth Line Adverts*, *Hickox's 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 pêcheurs de perles*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Zanetto*, *Rigoletto* (Opera Holland Park).