

Jonathan Nott

music and artistic director

If there is one conductor who is stealing the limelight these days, it is without doubt Jonathan Nott, the current Music and Artistic Director of the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. By watching and listening to him, we play witness to an exceptional talent who invites musicians and audiences alike to accompany him on a journey where contrasting worlds form an osmotic bond forged through deep emotions and meticulous conceptual reflection.

Jonathan Nott creates an extraordinary musical and human experience with his infinite charisma and choice of programmes. Inspired by a symphonic repertoire extending from Schubert and Bruckner to Mahler and Shostakovich, and onto to the limits of creation in the world of contemporary music, Nott has worked for several decades with famous composers as his accomplices; Györgi Ligeti, Luciano Berio, Pierre Boulez, Helmut Lachenmann and Karlheinz Stockhausen, as well as composers of his own generation.

His knowledge and understanding of the operatic repertoire also help strengthen the ties between the OSR and the Grand Théâtre de Genève, where his performances, marked by their unerring, deeply moving and spiritual musical style, are poignantly memorable.

Throughout his rich and varied career, he has conducted most of the renowned contemporary orchestras and formations of our time as well as an impressive number of soloists. Together they have recorded for Tudor, Sony, the Japanese label Octavia and more recently, PENTATONE. In partnership with the latter, and in collaboration with the OSR, Nott recorded works by Claude Debussy, Richard Strauss and György Ligeti reflecting the orchestra's French, German and contemporary musical heritage on "multi-channel 9.1 Auro 3D", released in 2018. A second recording comprising a symphonic programme around the theme of Pelléas et Mélisande with works by Schoenberg and a new symphonic suite by Jonathan Nott based on Debussy's opera, released at the end of 2021, has been widely praised and acclaimed by international critics. It was recently awarded the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik and a "choc" from Classica magazine. The release of a third CD in collaboration with pianist Francesco Piemontesi in works by Ravel, Schoenberg and Messiaen was released on July 1st, 2022.

In Japan, where he enjoys fame akin to that of a pop-star, Jonathan Nott has been the Music Director of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra since 2012, where he demonstrated exceptionally innovative artistic and technological creativity in the name of music.

In early 2023, Jonathan Nott also took the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande on tour, accompanied by pianist Khatia Buniatishvili, to Germany - in Munich and Berlin - Belgium - in Antwerp - and France - in Lille. Two tours are planned for the 2024-2025 season, again with the OSR, to Spain in February and Asia in July.

Jonathan Nott is musical director of the new production of Wagner's Ring at the Basel Opera, which began in September 2023 and is scheduled to run until the end of the 2024-25 season.

One of Jonathan Nott's main preoccupations is to share his knowledge with future generations and support them. He inspires young musicians through his role with the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie where he will have been the Principal Conductor for ten years by the end of his contract in 2024, and with the Gustav Mahler Jugend Orchester where he is a regular guest conductor. He also launched the Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition, designed to inspire and support the world-famous conductors of tomorrow.

He currently spends his free time producing a multimedia work based on Mahler's symphonies, illustrating his research through numerous details and references to his long-standing experience as a conductor.

Jonathan Nott's collaboration with the OSR has been extended until the beginning of 2026.

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World premiere of the new symphonic suite of Pelléas et Mélisande by Jonathan Nott based on Debussy opera

« ...le Britannique a émulsionné les thèmes des interludes, mais aussi quelques-unes des lignes significatives de cet opéra pour accoucher d'une œuvre d'environ quarante-cinq minutes. Le résultat? Épatant. » Rocco Zacheo, Tribune de Genève, 30.11.2023

Schoenberg, Ravel & Messiaen album with Francesco Piemontesi for Pentatone - July 2022

"The Ravel performance is especially dazzling, with gorgeously polished contributions from the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande under the gifted European-based British conductor, Jonathan Nott." Geoff Brown, The Times, 29.06.2022

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