

## Elena Schwarz

### Conductor

*'There was an outbreak of affection and bonhomie which seemed to begin from the platform and spread out to the hall. Elena Schwarz was the originator and chief recipient of that: not only does she have a superb technical command of her job but she makes her music both relaxed and rewarding, and musicians and listeners like that'*

The Arts Desk, November 2022 (BBC Philharmonic Orchestra)

Elena Schwarz combines insightful, fresh interpretations of core repertoire with an extensive knowledge and experience of wide-ranging contemporary music. Bringing a human quality that inspires confidence and draws the best from musicians, she has developed strong partnerships with orchestras across the world.

Working across all eras of music, Schwarz makes frequent return visits to orchestras including BBC Philharmonic, WDR Sinfonieorchester, San Diego Symphony, Royal Philharmonique de Liège and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras. A passionate advocate of new music, she works often with specialist contemporary ensembles including MusikFabrik, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Ensemble Modern, Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra and Klangforum Wien, with whom she made her Salzburg Festival debut in two performances last summer. She has conducted world premiere performances by Peter Eötvös and George Aperghis.

Accomplished in opera, she has worked at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence (*The Sleeping Thousand* by Adam Maor), Norwegian Opera (*Hansel & Gretel*) and Opéra National de Lyon (*Peer Gynt*), and conducted the acclaimed production of *Kat'a Kabanova* at Opéra National de Lyon last spring. This season she makes debuts at Dutch National Opera with Saariaho's *Innocence*, Opéra de Nice conducting *Rusalka* and at Staatsoper Stuttgart with Bernhard Lang's *Dora*.

Other highlights for the season include a return to the Philharmonia Orchestra to conduct Mahler Symphony no.1, her debut at the Concertgebouw with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, performances with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Hallé, Klangforum Wien and with the WDR Sinfonieorchester at the Kölner Philharmonie with soloist Pierre-Laurent Aimard as well as a recording of little-known works by French Humanist composer, Elsa Barraine.

In November 2023, she was appointed Conductor in Residence at Klangforum Wien for three years from January 2024.

### Previous engagements

Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Lucerne Symphony Orchestra and the Gulbenkian Orchestra

**Appointments**

Assistant to Mikko Franck at Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France; Assistant to Asher Fisch at West Australian Symphony Orchestra; Assistant to Marko Letonja at Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra; Associate Conductor at Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra (2019–21)

**Awards**

Dudamel Fellow (2018–19); First Prize, Princess Astrid Competition (Trondheim 2014); Second Prize, Jorma Panula Competition (Vaasa 2015)

**Studies**

Geneva Conservatoire and Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana; further studies with Peter Eötvös and Matthias Pintscher; masterclasses with Bernard Haitink and Neeme Järvi