

Ludovic Morlot - Conductor



Ludovic Morlot's élan, elegance and intensity on stage have endeared him to audiences and orchestras worldwide, from the Berliner Philharmonic to the Boston Symphony. Music Director of the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra since September 2021, he is concurrently Conductor Emeritus of the Seattle Symphony (where he was Music Director 2011-2019) and was Associate Artist of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra 2019-2024. He was Artistic Director and a founding member of the National Youth Orchestra of China 2017-2021, conducting their inaugural concerts at Carnegie Hall and in China in 2017, and touring with them to Europe in 2019. He was Chief Conductor of La Monnaie from 2012-2014 conducting new productions in Brussels and at the Aix Easter Festival - including *La Clemenza di Tito*, *Jenufa* and *Pelléas et Mélisande*.

In 24/25 Morlot takes the Barcelona Symphony to the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Aix Easter Festival and to l'Auditorium in his home city of Lyon, on the back of their successes together last season at the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie and Stockholm Royal Concert Hall. They continue their acclaimed Ravel CD cycle and champion the best of the Catalan composers on the orchestra's own label, and repeat their hugely popular concert on the Beach (20,000 live attendance, 30,000 online).

Guest highlights include a return to the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boulez celebrations at Manchester Bridgewater Hall with the BBC Philharmonic, and two opera productions - *Pelleas et Melisande* at Dallas Opera and Part 2 of *Les Troyens* at Seattle Opera, where in the past 3 seasons he has had great success with *Rheingold*, *Die Walküre* and *Samson et Dalila*.

Morlot has previously guested with the Berliner Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw, Czech Philharmonic, Dresden Staatskapelle, London Philharmonic, and Budapest Festival orchestras, and with many of the leading North American orchestras, notably the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago, and Philadelphia Symphony Orchestras. Morlot has a particularly strong connection with Boston, having been the Seiji Ozawa Fellowship Conductor at Tanglewood and subsequently appointed assistant conductor for the Boston Symphony. He has since conducted the orchestra in subscription concerts, at Tanglewood, and on a tour to the west coast of America. He has also appeared extensively in Asia and Australasia, notably with the Seoul Philharmonic, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony and Melbourne Symphony Orchestras. Festival appearances include the BBC Proms, Wien Modern, Edinburgh, Aspen, and Grant Park festivals.

Morlot's tenure in Seattle formed a hugely significant period in the orchestra's musical journey and he still returns for several weeks each season. His innovative programming encompassed not only his choice of repertoire and commissions, but theatrical productions and performances outside the traditional concert hall space. Some of these projects, including John Luther Adams' *Become Ocean*, Aaron Jay Kernis' *Violin Concerto* performed by James Ehnes and an exploration of Dutilleux's music, have earned the orchestra five Grammy Awards, as well as the distinction of being named Gramophone's 2018 Orchestra of the Year. To date Morlot has released 21 recordings with the Seattle Symphony Media label, including Messiaen's *Des Canyons aux étoiles* in 2023.

Trained as a violinist, he studied conducting at the Pierre Monteux School (USA) with Charles Bruck and Michael Jinbo. He continued his education in London at the Royal Academy and then at the Royal College as recipient of the Norman del Mar Conducting Fellowship. Ludovic is Affiliate Professor at the University of Washington School of Music in Seattle and a Visiting Artist at the Colburn School in Los Angeles. He sat on the jury of the Leeds International Piano Competition (2021) and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 2014 in recognition of his significant contribution to music.

Ludovic Morlot is represented by Intermusica.

2024/25 season / 599 words. As of 1.8.24. Not to be altered without permission.