



HARRISON PARROTT

Stephanie Childress

Conductor, Violin

“Childress’ command of her orchestra brings verve, bite and gravity to the score’s darker moments, while exulting merrily in its racier passages, and the sheer musicality of this production is another of its strengths.” (Operissima, February 2018)

Stephanie Childress makes her conducting debut with the Portuguese Academic Philharmonic Orchestra this season with concerts in Spain and Portugal. Conducting a programme of Britten and Beethoven, she also play/directs Mozart’s Violin Concerto No.4. She leads the orchestra of Opera North in the same programme at the Ryedale festival this summer and makes her debut with the Dresdner Philharmonie conducting Sibelius Symphony No.2 in a family concert in June 2020. She is also conducting a number of concerts this season with the London Lawyers’ Symphony Orchestra.

Her conducting highlights last season have included her debut with the Chineke! Junior Orchestra for the Southbank’s Imagine Children’s Festival and a programme of Prokofiev and Brahms with the Cambridge University Sinfonia. She has also led a repertoire session with the London Symphony Orchestra and students from the Guildhall School of Music a part of the LSO Orchestral Artistry Scheme and she made a celebrated debut with a new orchestra she has founded, Orchestra Rheia, which gave a performance of Brahms *Ein deutsches Requiem* in May 2019. She has also led performances of Beethoven’s *Ninth Symphony* in the St John’s College Chapel as well as leading the Southbank Sinfonia in a programme of Respighi and Piazzolla.

Alongside her conducting engagements she continues to work with a number of prominent conductors including assisting Martyn Brabbins’ production of *Luisa Miller* at the English National Opera and returning to Los Angeles to assist Susanna Mälkki at the Philharmonic.

She has participated in conducting masterclasses with Neeme and Paavo Järvi in Pärnu last summer, as well as Jukka-Pekka Saraste’s Aurora masterclasses. This season she joined Johannes Schlaefli at the Sibelius Academy and has recently been accepted to attend the highly regarded Aspen Conducting Academy. Stephanie is also one of the participants in the inaugural Maestra Conducting Competition in Paris in April 2020.

She has already conducted a number of operatic productions such as *The Enchanted Island* with the British Youth Opera; performances of Britten’s opera *The Rape of Lucretia* and his song cycle, *Les Illuminations*, at St. John’s College Cambridge, as well as Lennox Berkeley’s opera, *A Dinner Engagement* for the Cambridge University Opera Society. As the Music Director of New Voices Theatre, she led a World Premiere production of Anna Semple’s *The Next Station* in Green Park.

Stephanie came to prominence as a violinist through the 2016 & 2018 BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition, where she achieved Category Finalist in both. Continuing a strong relationship with the BBC Stephanie and play/directed Vivaldi’s ‘Winter’ from ‘The Four Seasons’ with BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for the 2019 BBC Ten Pieces Trailblazers, as well as featuring in the 2019 Proms Launch Video. The same year Stephanie made her BBC Proms debut at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Lost Words Prom with the Southbank Sinfonia and Jessica Cottis and she also travelled to Glasgow to perform with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at the Proms in the Park Scotland.

In January 2020 Stephanie made her soloist debut with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra performing Vaughan Williams’ *The Lark Ascending* under the baton of Vasily Petrenko. She also played a solo recital at the Dubai Opera in partnership with the Encore! Foundation.

2019/20 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography.