Stephanie Childress

Conductor

Stephanie Childress, now in her early twenties, is making her mark as a conductor of remarkable skill who has been likened to “other notable young conductors of the past such as Sir John Eliot Gardiner and Sir Simon Rattle” (*Varsity).* Her musicianship and command of a broad scope of repertoire has led to international engagements with symphony orchestras, contemporary chamber groups and opera houses.

In the 2021/22 season she will continue in her post as Assistant Conductor of the St Louis Symphony

Orchestra and Music Director of the St Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra. Following her success

as the 2nd prize-winner of the inaugural conducting competition, La Maestra, she has a number of

engagements with orchestras in France, including l’Orchestre de Paris, the Paris Mozart Orchestra,

l’Orchestre de Chambre de Paris and l’Orchestre National de Montpellier. Elsewhere, she will have debuts with the Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony and Utah Symphony Orchestra.

In the 2020/21 season, Childress took up her position as Assistant Conductor of the SLSO for a

shortened four week residency due to the pandemic and made several exciting appearances with UK

orchestras, including conducting debuts with the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia

Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and London Mozart

Players.

Having been inspired to start conducting due to her love of opera, Stephanie is dedicated to both learning and expanding the operatic repertoire. She has been an assistant conductor at the English National Operaand during the summer of 2021 she joined the music staff at Glyndebourne Festival to assist on *Il Turco in Italia* and conduct the Glyndebourne Chorus for *Luisa Miller*. Previously, she conducted Jeremy Sams’ *The Enchanted Island* with the British Youth Opera, Benjamin Britten’s *The Rape of Lucretia* at St John’s College (Cambridge), Lennox Berkeley’s *A Dinner Engagement* for the Cambridge University Opera Society, and the world premiere of Anna Semple’s *The Next Station is Green Park* at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Stephanie has attended masterclasses with esteemed conductors such as Sir Mark Elder, Paavo

Järvi, Jukka-Pekka Saraste, Sian Edwards, Nicolas Pasquet and Johannes Schlaefli and most

recently took part in the Conducting Académie of the Aix-en-Provence Festival.

As a violinist, Stephanie rose to prominence as a string finalist in BBC Young Musician of the Year in both 2016 and 2018. She was featured in the BBC’s 2019 Proms Launch Video ahead of her Proms debut at the Royal Albert Hall with the Southbank Sinfonia and Jessica Cottis. Shortly after, she performed alongside the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra at Glasgow’s Proms in the Park. In January 2020 she made her solo debut with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Vasily Petrenko.

Stephanie is passionate about amplifying the role of music within today’s world, and is currently undertaking an artistic residence at the Villa Albertine, a network for arts and ideas spanning France and the United States. As part of her residence, she will be assisting Esa-Pekka Salonen and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra in June 2022, as well as observing rehearsals with the Atlanta, LA and Chicago Symphony Orchestras. As of 2022, she is also a Young Leader of the Franco-British Young Leaders’ Program, a scheme created by the Franco-British Council to further cooperation across both sides of the Channel. Stephanie is an active supporter of the Tri-borough Music Hub, an award-winning organisation for music education. She has taken part in a number of programmes with the association, including leading the junior string ensemble at an ‘Artists for Inclusivity’ event and speaking at the Youth Music Conference 2020 held at the Royal College of Music. She has also appeared on BBC Radio 3’s In Tune

and BBC Proms Extra, as well as joining adjudicating panels for the RPS Awards (Storytelling

Category) and the Ivor Novello Awards (Orchestral Category).

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