Lawrence Foster

Conductor

Lawrence Foster celebrates his ninth year as Music Director of Opéra de Marseille in the 2022/23 season, as well as his fourth as Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra. Known for his exhilarating and expressive performances in a wide range of music, he enjoys a major career spanning the US, Europe and Asia. As a champion of the music of Enescu, his interpretations are renowned for their faithfulness to the score: “Lawrence Foster seems to have been put on this planet to conduct Enescu’s music. He is clearly a true believer and he understands every technical nuance and every expressive twist and turn” – *The Telegraph*.

This season, Lawrence Foster is invited to conduct repertoire as diverse as Enescu, Shostakovich, Brahms, Gershwin, Strauss, Beethoven, Bartók, Schumann, with orchestras such as the Bergen Filharmoniske Orkester, the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic, the Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava, the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra and the The Gulbenkian Orchestra. He also conducts the Orchestre Philharmonic de Marseille and will participate in the Tiroler Festspiele and will conduct two concerts at the Festival International de Piano de la Roque d'Anthéron where he is a regular guest. Major future projects include Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Christmas Eve* at the Frankfurt Opera, a recording of Verdi’ *Rigoletto* with Pentatone, and Debussy’s *Pelléas and Mélisande* at the George Enescu Festival.

In recent seasons, he conducted *Cosi fan tutte, Don Carlo,* and *Ernani* with the Opéra de Marseille.As a guest conductor he returned to Oper Frankfurt for Mozart’s *Marriage of Figaro* and to Opéra de Monte-Carlo for Kurt Weill’s *Street Scene*. He has conducted in major opera houses around the world, with highlights including *Troilus and Cressida* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the North American premiere of Berg’s *Lulu* at Houston Opera, Enescu’s *Oedipe* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, and the opening performance of the newly created Los Angeles Opera with Plácido Domingo and Sherrill Milnes in Verdi’s *Otello*.

Following his successful ten-year tenure as Artistic Director of the Gulbenkian Orchestra, he now serves as its Conductor Laureate. He toured extensively with the orchestra with such soloists as Lang Lang, Evgeny Kissin and Pinchas Zuckerman. This tenure also included highly acclaimed recordings with Pentatone of Verdi’s *Otello* and violin works by Bruch, Chausson and Korngold with Arabella Steinbacher. Lawrence Foster has held music directorships with the Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo, Houston Symphony, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, and the Aspen Music Festival and School, among others.

He has worked with orchestras including Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic Helsinki Philharmonic and Czech Philharmonic orchestras, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, NHK Symphony and Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini of Parma, among others.

In addition to recordings with the Gulbenkian Orchestra, he has received praise for a number of recent recordings with Pentatone including Puccini’s *La Fanciulla del West* with Transilvanian Philharmonic, the four Schuman Symphonies with the Czech Philharmonic, the early symphonies of Schubert with the Copenhagen Philharmonic, Strauss’ *Zigeunerbaron* and *Die Fledermaus* with NDR Radiophilharmonic, and the Martinů Double Concertos and the Shostakovich Cello Concertos with Polish Radio Orchestra and Marc Coppey with Audite. His recording of Enescu’s Oedipe with José van Dam and Nicolai Gedda with the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra (EMI) received multiple high awards. He also accompanied Radu Lupu in Beethoven’s Third Piano Concerto with the London Symphony, one of Lupu’s rare recordings.

Born in Los Angeles to Romanian parents, Foster served as Artistic Director of the George Enescu Festival from 1998 to 2001. In 2003 he was decorated by the Romanian President for services to Romanian Music.