Sofi Jeannin

Conductor

Renowned for her beautifully clear and succinct technique, and with a formidable knowledge of repertoire and understanding across all genres, Swedish-born Sofi Jeannin has established herself as one of the finest and most respected choral specialists around today. Jeannin was Music Director of the Chœur de Radio France from 2015 to 2018. She is currently Chief Conductor of the BBC Singers and of Ars Nova Copenhagen, and Music Director of the Maîtrise de Radio France.

Alongside her regular commitments, Jeannin is in high demand as a guest conductor. Notably, in the 2024/25 season she conducts Mozart’s *Requiem* with Aalborg Symphony Orchestra, Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* with Norrkoping Symphony Orchestra, Fauré’s *Requiem* with Royal Northern Sinfonia, and Elgar’s *Music Makers* paired with works by Judith Weir and Nico Muhly with City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. In the summer of 2025, she will lead one of the opening concerts of the Edinburgh International Festival.

Jeannin always champions contemporary composers. Last season, she gave numerous world premieres: Dani Howard’s new percussion concerto with Dame Evelyn Glennie and BBC National Orchestra of Wales, as well as works by Anna Clyne, Ben Nabuto, Heloise Werner and Roderick Williams, all with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

Recent highlights include appearances with Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre National de France, Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, English Concert, Academy of Ancient Music, Seattle Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Symphony Orchestra and New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra. Choral projects include performances with RIAS Kammerchor Berlin this season, Swedish Radio Chorus, Coro Casa da Musica, DR VokalEnsemblet, Chamber Choir Ireland, NFM Choir Wroclaw and Sao Paulo Symphony Choir.

Jeannin’s new role with Ars Nova Copenhagen will include many unique programmes with music ranging from well-known works by Pärt and Allegri to lesser-known gems by Langgaard, Rehnqvist and Baek.

Jeannin is leading the BBC Singers through their centenary season. Highpoints will be the UK premiere of Sir James MacMillan’s work for choir, *Ordo Virtutum,* and music ranging from Tavener to songs from West End musicals. With the BBC Singers, Jeannin is regularly at the BBC Proms. Beyond this, in recent seasons, Jeannin and the BBC Singers have given the UK premiere of Missy Mazzoli’s opera *Song from the Uproar*, and the world premieres of works by Shiva Feshareki and Nico Muhly. Their work together forges new cultural bridges and introduces audiences to unique combinations. Notable collaborations include one with the Academy of Ancient Music and South Asian dance company Akademi, exploring the dances of Rameau with classical and contemporary Indian dance; with Bengali-born composer/sarod player Soumik Datta and his work *Awaaz* weaving Indian classical music, Bengali folk, Tagore and Partition songs; with South African cellist and vocalist Abel Selaocoe, and another one featured Poulenc’s iconic choral work *Figure Humaine* with jazz interpolations from BBC New Generation Artist Misha Mullov Abado.

Jeannin’s post of Music Director of la Maîtrise de Radio France – the choir favoured by Messiaen and Dutilleux – gives her musical and pedagogical responsibility for 180 choristers. This season, she conducts Vivaldi’s *Gloria* with the ensemble Pulcinella and Ophélie Gaillard, gives the French premiere of Olga Neuwirth’s *Keyframes for a Hippogriff*, and conducts the world premiere of Zad Moultaka’s *The Children’s Passion,* partly sung in Aramaic, with Les Musiciens de Saint-Julien.

With la Maîtrise since 2008, Jeannin has commissioned multiple new works, collaborating with composers such as Kaija Saariaho, Peter Eötvös, John Adams and Thierry Escaich, and has given regular broadcasts on France Musique. She has conducted regularly at the Saint Denis Festival, including repertoire such as Messiaen Trois petites liturgies, Mozart Vespers and the Sinfonia Concertante with Renaud Capuçon and Adrien La Marca.

Committed to education and outreach work, Jeannin has worked with the chorus and orchestra of Kinshasa, Congo, and has also been involved in El Sistema, Greece, since early 2017. She regularly gives workshops and masterclasses around the world.

Jeannin studied conducting and singing at the Stockholm Royal College of Music, the Nice Conservatoire and then at the Royal College of Music, London, with Paul Spicer. She conducted her first BBC Radio 3 broadcast, the British premiere of Consolation I by Helmut Lachenmann, in 2006, and prepared the Royal College of Music Chorus for conductors including Bernard Haitink, Peter Schreier and David Willcocks.

She was awarded Chevalier (2009) and Officer (2025) de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Officer de l’Ordre des Palmes académiques in 2018, and Chevalier de l’Ordre national du Mérite in 2021.

She was awarded the Grand Prix Antoine Livio 2023 by the International Music Press Association, in recognition of her work with the Maîtrise de Radio France since 2008. In recognition of distinguished achievement in choral directing, she was awarded the highest honour of the Royal College of Organists, the RCO Medal, in 2024.