André de Ridder

Conductor

André de Ridder is the Generalmusikdirektor (GMD) of the Theater Freiburg and newly announced as the designated Music Director of English National Opera, a title he will assume from September 2027. He is in demand internationally for his impressive stylistic versatility, from baroque to contemporary music. His projects and collaborations take him to orchestras such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta y Coro Nacionales de España, Orchestre de Paris and Concertgebouworkest.

Over the course of the 2024/25 season, De Ridder will conduct new productions of *Jenufa*, *Tosca* and *Alcina* at the Theater Freiburg. Other highlights of the season in Freiburg will include concerts with soloists Ilya Gingolts and Kit Armstrong and symphonic works such as Tchaikovsky’s *Hamlet* and Oliver Messiaen’s *Éclairs sur l'Au-Delà.*

De Ridder will also make guest appearances with such orchestras as the Tonhalle Zurich, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Brussels Philharmonic, hr Sinfonieorchester Frankfurt, as well as Helsinki Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Philharmonia Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra Dublin and Netherlands Philharmonic.He continues his curatorship and performances of ​‘Unclassified Live’ at London’s Southbank Centre, a series of genre-defying performances featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra.

The ​“livewire conductor” (*The Times*) has formed close relationships with some of the most prominent opera composers of our generation, including Michel van der Aa, Daníel Bjarnason, Nico Muhly and Kaija Saariaho. De Ridder also recently performed repertoire works such as *Bluebeard’s Castle* (Philharmonia Orchestra) and *Scenes from Goethe’s Faust* by Schumann (Staatstheater Stuttgart), collaborating with directors such as Kasper Holten, Barrie Kosky and Enda Walsh. He made his debut at Oper Köln, for performances of *Der Meister und Margarita* by York Höller.

De Ridder is an Artistic Director and co-founder s t a r g a z e, performing projects ranging from Bach to avant-garde electronics, and contemporary classical music. The group have gained a significant following, and are regularly invited by leading concert halls, including the Barbican Centre London, the Kölner Philharmonie and Philharmonie de Paris, plus Elbphilharmonie Hamburg. Their series ‘(not) Another Beethoven Cycle’ appeared at Elbphilharmonie, Helsinki Festival, Lucerne Festival and Kölner Philharmonie.

In the 24/25 season they are resident at Muzikgebouw in Amsterdam performing repertoire such as David Longstreth “Song of the Earth in Crisis”, Stockhausen and the Beach Boys.

De Ridder’s discography includes an album of orchestral music by Bryce Dessner and Jonny Greenwood and the hugely successful *Four Seasons Recomposed* by Max Richter, both for Deutsche Grammophon. The Max Richter recording was awarded an ECHO Klassik Classic Without Borders award and has topped the classical charts in over 20 countries. For Transgressive Records, De Ridder also acted as producer on the release of *Africa Express Presents: In C Mali*. This followed a trip to Bamako, Mali, with Damon Albarn and his Africa Express project. In Mali, de Ridder initiated and led a recording of Riley’s *In C* with local musicians, joined by travelling Western artists, including Brian Eno and Damon Albarn.

De Ridder was Artistic Director of Musica Nova Helsinki 2017 – 2021, and in 2018 was the recipient of a Royal Philharmonic Society Award for his innovative work as Artistic Curator of London’s Spitalfields Festival.