Killian Farrell
Conductor

Described as 'a firework of drama and poetry' by Neue Musikzeitung, conductor Killian Farrell is Generalmusikdirektor (GMD) at Staatstheater Meiningen and now GMD Designate at Staatstheater Nürnberg (effective from the 2027/28 season). Farrell began his career at Theater Bremen, serving as First Kapellmeister and conducting a range of repertoire including new productions of Die Zauberflöte and Wolfgang Rihm’s Jakob Lenz, alongside performances of Der Rosenkavalier, Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk, Alcina, Rusalka, and Fidelio. He also held the position of First Kapellmeister at Staatsoper Stuttgart, where he conducted works including Monteverdi’s Orfeo and Prokofiev’s The Love for Three Oranges.

The 2025/26 season features engagements with Ulster Orchestra, Badische Staatskapelle Karlsruhe, Staatsoper Stuttgart, Staatsoper Hamburg and Semperoper Dresden; he conducts Puccini’s La bohème, Hindemith’s Cardillac, Wagner’s Das Rheingold and Verdi’s Otello for Staatstheater Meiningen.

Recent season highlights included appearances with Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and Deutsche Oper am Rhein for productions of Dido and Aeneas & The Lighthouse, Irish National Opera, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Irish Chamber Orchestra, Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz, and Deutsche Radiophilharmonie Saarbrücken.

Farrell served as a Conducting Fellow at Tanglewood Music Centre in 2019, conducting their orchestra and receiving guidance from conductors such as Andris Nelsons, Thomas Adés, and Giancarlo Guerrero. He is a former Young Artist at the National Opera Studio, a Britten-Pears Young Artist, and an alumnus of the prestigious Académie du Festival d’Aix-en-Provence. A former member of the German Conductors’ Forum, he was awarded a scholarship from the Bryden Thomson Trust.

Farrell hails from Dublin, Ireland, and is a former Deputy Head Chorister of Dublin’s Palestrina Choir. He made his professional conducting debut at 17 with Bach’s St.John Passion. Farrell studied conducting, piano and organ at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama and read musicology at Trinity College Dublin.

