Roderick Cox
Conductor

Praised as “a conductor of the first artistic league… leading with clarity, emotional charge, and an unshakable sense of purpose” (Klassik Begeistert), Roderick Cox has built a reputation for thoughtful artistry and a diverse repertoire that encompasses symphonic, operatic, and contemporary works.

As of the 2024/25 season, Cox serves as Music Director of the Opéra Orchestre National de Montpellier Occitanie, making him the youngest in the orchestra’s history. In Montpellier, he conducts both opera and symphonic repertoire, including a new production of Verdi’s *La Traviata*, Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Reqiuem,* Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring*, Debussy’s *La Mer*, Bruckner’s Symphony No.4, and Shostakovich’s Symphony No.10, to name a few.

Cox has made guest appearances with many of the world’s leading ensembles across North America, Europe, and beyond. In the United States, he has conducted the Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Cleveland Orchestra, and major orchestras such as Atlanta, Detroit, Seattle, and Montreal Symphonies. In Europe, he has collaborated with the Staatskapelle Dresden, Rotterdam Philharmonic, WDR Symphony, BBC Symphony, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, and Halle Orchestra. His international profile also includes debuts in Asia and Australia with the Sydney Symphony and Seoul Philharmonic.

Highlights of the 2025/26 season include his debuts with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, MDR Leipzig, Orchestre National de Belgique and Kansas City Symphony as well as return engagements with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin and the Cincinnati Symphony. He will also conduct the Chineke! Orchestra on a major European tour, including performances in London, Paris, Dublin, Dortmund, and Antwerp—underscoring his commitment to presenting music with a spirit of inclusivity and fresh perspectives.

On the opera stage, Cox debuted with the English National Opera in 2024, conducting Rossini’s The Barber of Seville. He has also led productions at the San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, Finnish National Opera, and Opéra National de Montpellier, including works such as *Rigoletto*, *La Bohème*, *La forza del Destino*, and Jeanine Tesori’s *Blue*.

Cox’s recording projects have garnered significant attention. *The New York Times* named his release of William Dawson’s *Negro Folk Symphony* with the Seattle Symphony one of the top five classical recordings to hear in 2023, and *BBC Music Magazine* awarded it five stars. His recording of Tesori’s Blue with the Washington National Opera Orchestra was nominated for the BBC Music Magazine Opera Award.

In 2019, Cox founded the Roderick Cox Music Initiative, a program dedicated to nurturing young musicians of color and expanding access to classical music education. Through scholarships, mentorship, and performance opportunities, RCMI empowers the next generation of artists and works to make classical music more inclusive and representative of today’s world. A native of Georgia, Cox studied at the Schwob School of Music and Northwestern University before undertaking early career fellowships at Aspen, Chautauqua, and the Chicago Sinfonietta. He served as Associate Conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä from 2016 to 2019 and is a recipient of the 2018 Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award.