



DR. RAAB & DR. BÖHM
KÜNSTLERAGENTUR

Joseph Bastian

Conductor

The French-Swiss conductor Joseph Bastian is famous for his “absolute precision and his calm and masterful demeanour”. With clarity and a keen sense of ensemble playing, he works with orchestra musicians in a spirit of trust and partnership – thus inspiring them to achieve depth and expressive unity.



Since September 2023, he has served as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Munich Symphony Orchestra, where he is leading a vibrant artistic renewal. His focus on civic engagement and creative programming has already drawn national recognition: the orchestra’s groundbreaking inclusive project was awarded the Innovation Prize by the German Orchestra Foundation.

A committed advocate for rediscovering underrepresented women composers, Bastian’s recent recordings of the orchestral works of Amy Beach and Mel Bonis have been praised for their sensitivity and purpose. They reflect his wider artistic vision: to expand the repertoire with music of genuine merit that has been forgotten by history.

Since 2022, he has also been Principal Conductor of the Orchestre Dijon Bourgogne. His tenure has included bold interdisciplinary collaborations, bringing neurosciences onto concert stages with French researcher Emmanuel Bigand. A major milestone came with the orchestra’s debut at the International Besançon Festival in 2023, followed by a return invitation in 2025, affirming its rising stature.

Bastian also leads the Asian Youth Orchestra as Principal Conductor, touring annually throughout Asia and Europe. Under his direction, the AYO performs at leading festivals and venues, serving as a vital cultural bridge and training ground for exceptional young musicians.

As a guest conductor, Bastian is regularly invited to major European and international stages, including the Bavarian State Orchestra, Orchestre National d’Île de France, WDR and SWR Symphonieorchester, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, BRSO, and Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, as well as orchestras across Europe, Asia, and South America.

Highlights of the 26/27 season will be debuts with the Orchestre Symphonique du Québec, his operatic debut in Dijon with *Ariadne auf Naxos* as well as returns to the Bamberger Symphoniker, Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, and Aarhus Symfoniorkester.

His opera credits include *Hänsel und Gretel* and *Luisa Miller* at the Luzerner Theater, *La Traviata* in Karlsruhe, Haydn’s *Il Mondo de la Luna* with the Zurich Opera Studio.

Bastian first rose to prominence in 2016, when he stepped in on short notice to conduct the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks in a performance hailed as a “sensational debut.” He went on to win the Neeme Järvi Prize (Gstaad Menuhin Festival) and the Eugen Jochum Prize (BRSO).

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Kontakt:

Andreas Neudauer, Senior Artist Manager | neudauer@rbartists.at | +43 660 300 2908

Caroline Urban, Artist Manager | urban@rbartists.at | +43 660 300 2308