

Christian Øland, Conductor

Christian Øland is one of the most exciting conductors of his generation and stands at the forefront of the young Nordic conducting scene. His repertoire ranges from Haydn and Beethoven to Mahler, Strauss, and Bruckner, Nordic classics such as Nielsen and Sibelius, and 20th-century works, to world premieres of new compositions.

Øland has conducted leading orchestras including the Oslo Philharmonic, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, Royal Swedish Orchestra, Royal Danish Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Iceland Symphony Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, and Copenhagen Philharmonic.

As Chief Conductor of the Danish Philharmonic Orchestra (Sønderjyllands Symfoniorkester) and General Music Director of Theater Magdeburg, including Chief Conductor of the Magdeburg Philharmonic, Øland is conducting a wide range of major symphonic and operatic programmes in the 2026/27 season. Highlights include Mahler's Symphony No. 6 in Magdeburg and Holst's The Planets with the Danish Philharmonic Orchestra, while with the Odense Symphony Orchestra he will perform Nielsen's Symphony No. 5.

The season also sees him working with soloists including Christian Tetzlaff and Denis Kozhukhin. Further highlights include a concert with the Magdeburg Philharmonic at Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie and the revival of the acclaimed production of The Nutcracker at 'Tivoli Copenhagen' with the Copenhagen Philharmonic.

At Theater Magdeburg, Øland will conduct a double bill pairing Peter Maxwell Davies' Eight Songs for a Mad King with Bartók's Bluebeard's Castle, alongside a new production of Puccini's La bohème and a revival of Turandot.

Following three concert appearances with the Magdeburg Philharmonic in 2024, he conducted his first opera production at Theater Magdeburg – Bizet's Carmen – leading to his unanimous appointment as General Music Director.

Øland has established himself as a conductor of opera, dance, and music theatre. In spring 2025, he led Poul Schierbeck's Fête Galante at Danish National Opera, the work's first complete performance since the 1960s. In 2023, he conducted the world premiere of Leaning Tree, a Danish Dance Theatre commission with music by Signe Lykke, at the Royal Danish Playhouse with the Copenhagen Philharmonic – a production later nominated for a Reumert Award.

Other notable productions include Mats Ek's acclaimed Julia and Romeo with the Royal Swedish Ballet, Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker with the Royal Danish Ballet, and The World of John Neumeier with the Hamburg Ballet. With the Helsinki Sinfonietta, he conducted Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Born in 1994, Øland studied piano and bassoon before, at the age of 18, being admitted to the conducting class at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. His teachers and mentors included Atso Almila, Hannu Lintu, Leif Segerstam, Jorma Panula, Herbert Blomstedt, and Esa-Pekka Salonen. Just one year later, he became Assistant Conductor to Hannu Lintu at the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, where he soon went on to conduct concerts of his own. In 2016, he was



awarded the Carl Nielsen and Anne Marie Carl-Nielsen Talent Award.