

CONDUCTOR

## Róbert Farkas

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Hungarian-German conductor Róbert Farkas has served as Chief Conductor of the MÁV Symphony Orchestra in Budapest 2021–2026. There, he curates a wide range of symphonic programs featuring distinguished soloists and is committed to high-level musical outreach. He places strong emphasis on youth education and regularly presents numerous family concerts. Until 2024, he also served as Artistic Director of MUZIKA at Theater Hagen, where he actively advocated for the music and community of the Romani. He has also held the position of Principal Guest Conductor of the Banatul Philharmonic Orchestra in Timișoara and currently holds the same title with the Dinu Lipatti Philharmonic in Satu Mare (Romania), where he appears regularly with various orchestras. In May 2026, he received the prestigious "Conductor of the Year 2025" award of Bartók Rádió, a testament to his exceptional skills and contributions to the field.

As a guest conductor, he has conducted the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the Berliner Symphoniker, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, the Heidelberg Philharmonic Orchestra, the Wuppertal Symphony Orchestra, the Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie in Koblenz, the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra in Bucharest, the NFM Wrocław Philharmonic, the Orquesta Clásica Santa Cecilia in Madrid, the Rubinstein Philharmonic in Łódź, the Croatian Radiotelevision (HRT) Symphony Orchestra in Zagreb, and the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. In Hungary, he made his debut in 2016 with the Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra, conducting Busoni's Piano Concerto (Kun Woo Paik, piano) and Brahms' Symphony No. 2. Further engagements led him to the Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Pannon Philharmonic, the Győr Philharmonic Orchestra, the Concerto Budapest, and the Danubia Orchestra. In 2022, Farkas also made his debut with the Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra at the Großes Festspielhaus in Salzburg.

Róbert Farkas began his musical career in Hungary at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music, studying choral conducting, music theory, and music pedagogy, graduating in 2005. In the same year, he began his conducting studies in Budapest, and continued his studies at the Berlin University of the Arts under Professor Lutz Köhler, where he performed his graduation concert in 2012. During this period, he also attended the summer academy of the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena with Gianluigi Gelmetti. He also participated in masterclasses such as the Lucerne Festival (Bernard Haitink, 2011) and the Bartók Seminar in Szombathely (Péter Eötvös, 2013).

Immediately after completing his diploma in Berlin, he gained substantial professional experience as a musical assistant at the experimental stage of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin, including productions of works by Shostakovich, Hindemith and Cage. As part of the "INFEKTION!" festival, he conducted the world premiere of Amargianaki's *Autonomes Nervensystem*.

Farkas gained international attention in 2011 with several awards at the International Competition of Young Conductors Lovro von Matačić in Zagreb. Over 7 years, he worked as a musical assistant to Iván Fischer with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin and the Budapest Festival Orchestra. He also collaborated with Dmitriy Kitajenko on multiple productions with the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra.

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Róbert Farkas has extensive and versatile experience in music theatre. From 2012 to 2016, he was permanently engaged at Theater und Orchester Heidelberg, where he conducted numerous opera productions, including *La Traviata*, *Così fan tutte*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Cabaret*, *Kiss Me*, *Kate*, as well as *Akhnaten* by Philip Glass and the German premiere of the symphonic work *The Turn of the Tide* by Peter Maxwell Davies. His intensive collaboration with singers, stage directors, and theatre management in Heidelberg significantly shaped his understanding of operatic practice. Further operatic engagements have taken him to the Hungarian State Opera in Budapest (*La Fille du Régiment*, *La Traviata*), the Oder-Spree Opera (*L'elisir d'amore*), and the Konzerthaus Berlin (*Iván Fischer: The Gruffalo*). His strong interest in intercultural projects highlights his affinity for cross-genre formats. In 2022, he conducted *Rendezvous with Marlene*, starring Ute Lemper, in Zagreb. He has collaborated with Roby Lakatos and Ferenc Snétberger on multiple occasions. He is committed to initiating further educational projects that address misinformation about the Romani people and their music and combat racism. His versatility is also evident in projects such as a silent film concert series in Hungary as part of the Bartók Spring Festival, featuring *The General* with newly composed music by Apor Szűts, and a film music project in cooperation with IMG Artists, performing *Jurassic Park* with a live orchestra on the open-air stage on Margaret Island, Budapest. He is also dedicated to the contemporary repertoire. In 2025, Róbert Farkas conducted the Hungarian premieres of Péter Eötvös's *Harp Concerto* with Xavier de Maistre and Fazıl Say's new piano concerto *Mother Earth*, with the composer performing. He also presented Wynton Marsalis's *Trumpet Concerto* with Gábor Tarkövi.

His first CD recording was released in 2020 on the CPO label, featuring *Piano Concertos No. 2 & 4* by Anton Rubinstein with the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin and pianist Schaghajegh Nosrati. The recording was nominated for the German Record Critics' Award (Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik).

Róbert Farkas lives in Berlin and Budapest and holds both German and Hungarian citizenship. He speaks fluent Hungarian, German, and English, and is currently studying French.

As of June 2026

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