



Clément Mao-Takacs – Conductor

“Clément Mao–Takacs is a young conductor with daring original vision, and who defends the rare repertoires from yesterday and today alike, always curating intelligent programmes” (Les Échos)

Upcoming highlights include his debut with the London Symphony Orchestra at the Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, 2021, his debut with the San Francisco Opera and his return to Finland with Finnish National Opera and the Avanti! Chamber Orchestra.

Clément recently conducted Saariaho’s *Aile du songe* pairing the concerto with Haydn and Mendelssohn in his debut at the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire and Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Orchestre de Paris. He made his debut with the Stavanger Symphony with a programme of works by Saariaho and Wagner and conducted the Odense Symphony Orchestra as well as the Avanti! Chamber Orchestra.

An integral part of his artistic life is the Paris based *Secession Orchestra* he founded in 2011, of which he is both Artistic and Musical Director. Taking the ideals of the Viennese Secession movement as the starting point, the repertoire encompasses music from Mahler, Bartók and Debussy through rarely performed scores to contemporary music. They give over 50 concerts each year including residencies at venues such as the Musée du Louvre, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and Festival de Saint-Denis. He also created and is Artistic Director of the festivals INTERVALLES in Paris and TERRAQUÉ in Carnac, Brittany.

With stage director Aleksis Barrière he founded and leads the collective *La Chambre aux échos*, working on musical theatre and chamber opera. For their upcoming project they will join forces with the Finnish National Opera in Helsinki producing *‘Between’* with works by Saariaho, and two world premieres by Vestergard and Hilli.

As a guest conductor, he has been invited to give concerts by Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, Odense Symphony, Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne, Festival Orchestra of Sofia, Avanti! Chamber Orchestra Finland, and Bit 20 Bergen.

A specialist of Kaija Saariaho’s music, he has conducted the world premiere and several national premieres of the chamber version of her opera *La Passion de Simone*, including performances in Bratislava, Saint- Denis, Lublin, Clermont-Ferrand, Copenhagen, Bergen and Nantes. Further Saariaho credits include the world premiere of the chamber version of *Quatre Instants* which is also dedicated to him, the Danish premiere of the concerto *Notes on Light* (with cellist Jakob Kullberg), and regularly performs numerous works from her catalogue. 2019 saw the release of a CD of her works for violin and orchestra on BIS Records with the Oslo Philharmonic and soloist Peter Herresthal. Lauded for its expressivity and virtuosity and nominated for a Spellemann Award, it was BBC Music

Magazine's Concerto Choice and "could scarcely be bettered" (Gramophone). It has now also been shortlisted for the 2021 Grammy awards.

Clément Mao-Takacs's further recordings include Stockhausen's *Adieu* for Crystal Classics, a disc of Jacques Ibert's music for Timpani (awarded '5 diapasons' by DIAPASON magazine) and Debussy "Fantaisie for piano and orchestra" with the Secession Orchestra (Mirare). Upcoming releases include music by Stravinsky, Saariaho and Berg.

He graduated from the Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris and the Accademia Chigiana in Sienna, and was awarded the Prix "Jeune Talent" by the Fondation del Duca (Institut de France / Académie des Beaux-Arts).

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