

Rossen Gergov

Conductor



Rossen Gergov is internationally recognised for his work both on the symphony orchestra platform and on the opera stage. A conductor with equal enthusiasm for both traditional and contemporary opera productions, he has an impressive command of the opera canon from Mozart to newly commissioned works. He is a regular guest conductor with the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra and the Sofia Opera and Ballet, and previously held the position of Chief Conductor of the Bulgarian National Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Having established himself as a prominent conductor in Bulgaria, Rossen's 2025/26 season begins with a re-invitation to the Sofia Philharmonic conducting Khachaturian's *Violin Concerto in D minor*, Debussy's *Nocturnes for Symphony Orchestra*. This is a continuation of his strong relationship with Bulgarian orchestras. Last season saw a re-invitation to Vratsa Philharmonic in a programme of music by Nino Rota and Debussy, and returned to the orchestra in April where he conducted Dvořák's *Cello Concerto* with soloist Pavel Gomziakov. He also returned to Varna Opera for a symphonic concert with music by Beethoven, Paganini and Elgar. Rossen conducted the Pleven Philharmonic in a concert of Mozart, Saint-Saens and Ravel, and he was welcomed back to the Malaysia Philharmonic Orchestra for a semi-staged performance of *Carmen*, after a successful debut in March 2024. In February 2026 he made his debut with Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz in a dazzling programme with works by Dvorak, Ravel, Szymanowski (soloist Baiba Skride) and Stravinsky. Following this success, he got re-invited to conduct the orchestra again in February 2027 with works by Beethoven and Rachmaninov.

Highlights from previous seasons include a re-invitation from the Teatro Comunale, Bolzano to conduct the world premiere of *Dorian Gray*, a new opera by Matteo Franceschini, based on the Oscar Wilde novel. With Sofia Opera, Rossen conducted the performances of a new production of Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer*, and he conducted Sofia Ballet in a ballet production of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. With Teatro Comunale Bolzano, he conducted semi-staged concert performances of the contemporary opera *Alice* by Matteo Franceschini.

Rossen's three sons are all acclaimed soloists; violinist Kai Gergov, cellist Rey Gergov, and pianist Leo Gergov, and they frequently perform together. Last season saw a concert with the State Opera Varna Orchestra where each of Rossen's sons appeared as soloists, respectively in Mozart's *Piano Concerto no. 9*, Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto*, and Elgar's *Cello Concerto*.

He has a close relationship with Japanese orchestras, having conducted the Tokyo New City Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Osaka Symphony Orchestra, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, Nagoya Philharmonic, Kyoto Symphony, Hiroshima Symphony, and Sapporo Symphony.

Across Europe, he has appeared with the Bamberger Symphoniker, DSO Berlin, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Orchestre National de Montpellier, Orquesta Sinfónica del Principado de Asturias, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra and

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Modern, Odense Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Polish National Radio Orchestra, Katowice, Paderewski State Philharmonic Orchestra, Sinfonieorchester Basel, Pomeranian State Philharmonic, SWR Symphonieorchester, Noord Nederlands Orkest, and the Orquestra Sinfónica Portuguesa, and in China, with the China National Symphony Orchestra, and Sichuan Symphony Orchestra.

His debut at Teatro Comunale Bolzano was in a production of George Benjamin's *Written on Skin*. Previously, he made his debut at the Nationaltheater Mannheim with a new production of Henze's *Die Bassariden*, going on to conduct performances of Cherubini's *Medée*. Opera engagements in previous seasons at Bregenzer Festspiele include *Tosca*, Benedict Mason's *Playing Away* and the Austrian premiere of Weinberg's *Das Portrait*. He also conducted *Die Fledermaus* and *Rigoletto* at Volksoper Wien, *La Traviata* and *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Theater Meiningen, *Carmen* in Varna, and *Orpheus in the Underworld* with Trinity Laban in London. Very much at home in contemporary repertoire, he has previously conducted performances of Michael Jarrell's *Cassandra* at Teatro Rossini, Lugo, Ullmann's *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* with Klangforum Wien, and Weinberg's *The Portrait* at Opera North, Leeds.

In addition to multiple performances in Bulgaria, he also adjudicated at the Cantus Firmus Competition in Sofia

Rossen studied piano and clarinet before taking conducting lessons with Michail Angelov and subsequently studying conducting with Leopold Hager at the University of Music and Fine Arts in Vienna. Seiji Ozawa invited him to the Tanglewood Music Festival after which he acted as Ozawa's assistant. He conducted the ORF-Sinfonieorchester upon graduation and went on to become Assistant Conductor of the Tonkünstlerorchester Niederösterreich, a post he held until 2009.

Rossen is a Laureate of the first Evgeny Svetlanov International Conducting Competition in 2007. His recording of works by David Chesky with the Symphony Orchestra of NorrlandsOperan was nominated for a Grammy in 2008 and he has also recorded for the BBC, Bayerische Rundfunk and ORF in Austria.