

## John Nelson



Grammy Award-winning conductor John Nelson is recognised worldwide as one of America's most eminent conductors, as well as the leading living interpreter of the music of Hector Berlioz.

In 2018, Nelson stole headlines the world over by way of *outstanding* critical reception to his complete recording of Berlioz's *Les Troyens*. Recorded for Warner Classics/Erato with the Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg, and a star-studded vocal cast (including Joyce

DiDonato, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, and Michael Spyres), the recording met with universal acclaim – amassing such accolades as the BBC Music Magazine's 'Award for Opera', the International Opera Award. It was also hailed by Gramophone Magazine not only as 'Opera Recording of the Year', but also 'Recording of the Year', and 'Recording of the Decade' by The Sunday Times – proudly reinforcing Nelson's work and authority as the world's leading Berlioz specialist.

The outstanding success of *Les Troyens* has been followed by further large-scale Berlioz recording projects and special events. Amongst these – *La Damnation de Faust* (2019), *Harold en Italie & Nuits d'Été* (2021), and *Roméo et Juliette* (2022), again partnered by the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg. To mark the 150th anniversary of Berlioz's death, Nelson led a performance of Berlioz's *Requiem* (2019) – in London's iconic St. Paul's Cathedral – broadcast by Medici.tv, and performed/recorded with London's Philharmonia Orchestra and Chorus, which was described by The Telegraph as "a brilliant recording of one of the greatest pieces ever written".

The 2022/2023 season sees Nelson conduct Handel's *Messiah* at Coventry Cathedral, UK (recorded for Warner Classics/Erato, and broadcast by Medici.tv), and lead a star-studded performance of Bizet's *Carmen* at the Royal Albert Hall, London (joined by Joyce DiDonato and the Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg). Additionally, he performs and records both Mozart's *Requiem* (Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne), and Berlioz's *Lélio* & *Symphonie Fantastique* (Royal Danish Orchestra).

Over a career spanning some five decades, Nelson has conducted the world's leading orchestras and ensembles. In North America, this includes the orchestras of Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Montréal, and Toronto. In Europe, he has enjoyed working with such ensembles as the Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Czech Philharmonic, Dresden Staatskapelle, Gewandhaus Leipzig, London Philharmonic, London Symphony, Madrid Symphony RTVE, Orchestre de Paris, Oslo Philharmonic, the Philharmonia, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Across Asia, Nelson has worked regularly at the top level, with the likes of China Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan, New Japan Philharmonic, and the orchestras of Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou.

John Nelson studied at the Juilliard School in New York, where he received the Irving Berlin Conducting Prize. Over the course of his career, he has served as Music Director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Opera Theater of St. Louis, the Caramoor Music Festival in New York and the Orchestre de chambre de Paris. In addition, Nelson has held the positions of Principal Guest Conductor of the National Orchestra of Lyon, Artistic Advisor of the orchestras of Nashville and Louisville, and he is presently the Principal Guest Conductor of the National Orchestra of Costa Rica – the country in which he was born to

American missionary parents.

Nelson is a champion of operatic repertoire, and has conducted in the world's greatest opera houses – from the Metropolitan Opera and Chicago Lyric Theatre, to the Opéra Bastille de Paris, Grand Théâtre de Genève, the Dutch National Opera, and the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma. He is also recognised as a great interpreter of the sacred music repertoire: in 1994 co-founding SOLI DEO GLORIA – an organization based in Chicago that commissions works of sacred music from the world's foremost composers, such as Christopher Rouse, James MacMillan and Roxanna Panufnik.

Nelson's distinguished discography further includes Händel's Semele (Grammy Award), Berlioz's Béatrice et Bénédict (Diapason d'Or), and highly acclaimed DVDs of Bach's B minor Mass and St. Matthew Passion, Haydn's Die Schöpfung and Beethoven's Missa Solemnis. He also recorded the complete Beethoven Symphonies and Piano Concertos with the Orchestre de chambre de Paris.

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