

Holly Hyun Choe, Conductor

Biography

Holly Hyun Choe, born in South Korea and raised in Los Angeles, impresses with her presence and radiance on the podium. The Recipient of the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award 2025 and designated Principal Conductor of the Norwegian Radio Orchestra, she remains a highly sought-after guest conductor in both the United States and Europe.

After serving two years as assistant conductor of the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich under the direction of Paavo Järvi, she is now residing in Germany. The 2024/25 season is her third one as Principal Conductor of the chamber orchestra Ensemble Reflektor, which sees itself as an ambassador for a musical culture without borders. She is also associated with the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève as Artiste associée, and she will conduct the orchestra both in concert and in Gerald Barry's opera *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève in April 2025.

A significant debut in her hometown stands out among her engagements in the current season: in May 2025, Holly Hyun Choe will conduct the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the first time. As part of the Dudamel Fellowship, she will also work alongside Gustavo Dudamel, Zubin Mehta, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Xian Zhang, Natalie Stutzmann, and Philippe Jordan. Another debut will take her to the Norwegian Radio Orchestra, where she will conduct works including Kaija Saariaho's *Ciel d'hiver* and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 4*. Additionally, she will return to the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra, the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich, the Orchestre de Paris, the Philharmonisches Staatsorchester Hamburg, and the Kammerakademie Potsdam, with which she will also perform in Munich and Essen. In recent seasons, she has among others been a guest with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, and the Odense Symphony Orchestra.

As part of her commitment to promoting female composers, Holly Hyun Choe regularly programs works by Ethel Smyth, Clarice Assad, Grażyna Bacewicz, Lili Boulanger, Britta Byström, Louise Farrenc, Fanny Hensel, Jennifer Higdon, Jessie Montgomery, Emilie Mayer, Caroline Shaw, Dobrinka Tabakova, Anna Thorvaldsdóttir, and Galina Ustvolskaya.

Holly Hyun Choe completed her studies with Prof. Johannes Schlaefli at the Zurich University of the Arts in 2023. Her musical journey began self-taught: she learned to play the clarinet at the age of 13 and only received her first private music lessons at the age of 19. In 2015, she completed a master's degree with Prof. Charles Peltz at the New England Conservatory. She has participated in master classes with Bernhard Haitink, Jorma Panula, Fabio Luisi (Concertgebouw Orkest), Peter Eötvös, Sylvia Caduff, and Jaap van Zweden, and has assisted Esa-Pekka Salonen (Orchestre de Paris), Leonard Slatkin (Orchestre National de Lyon), Simone Young (Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne/Zurich Opera), François-Xavier Roth, and Karina Canellakis (Gürzenich-Orchester Cologne).

In 2018, she was selected for the German Music Council's Forum Dirigieren; she has also been supported by a Career Assistance Award from the Solti Foundation, a scholarship from the Taki Alsop Conducting Fellowship, and as a participant in the Peter Eötvös Foundation Mentoring Programme.

2024/2025 season

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