

Michael Wendeborg, Conductor/Piano

Biography

Classical repertoire – from Bach to Boulez – comes to conductor and pianist Michael Wendeborg with just as much ease as his dedicated work with new music. At the start of the 2025/26 season, he will conduct at the Klangspuren Schwaz festival before returning to Frankfurt Opera with a revival of Vito Žuraj's *Blühen*. In the second half of the season, he will conduct the world premiere of Sarah Nemtsov's *Wir (We)* at Theater Dortmund, staged by Eva-Maria Höckmayr. He will also perform with Klangforum Wien in Tongyeong, conduct the Remix Ensemble in Porto, and lead Zender's *Winterreise* with Julian Prégardien and Ensemble Modern. Further he will return to the Slovenian Philharmonic in Ljubljana, Villach and Maribor with Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin* and works by Illés, Hren and Isabel Mundry. As a pianist, he will play Johannes Brahms' entire solo works in Berlin in early 2026 and all of Pierre Boulez's solo works at the Pierre Boulez Saal in late 2025.

Michael Wendeborg has conducted renowned orchestras and ensembles including WDR Symphony Orchestra, SWR Symphony Orchestra, MDR Symphony Orchestra, Radio Symphony Orchestra Berlin, Junge Deutsche Philharmonie, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, Asko|Schönberg Ensemble, Ensemble intercontemporain, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, Basel Sinfonietta, Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, and Staatskapelle Berlin. In 2022, Michael Wendeborg made his debut with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra with Debussy's *Jeux* and the world premiere of Isabel Mundry's Viola Concerto with Nils Mönkemeyer. In 2023 he stood in for Daniel Barenboim at both the piano and the conductor's desk in concerts with works by Mozart, Boulez and Manoury with the Boulez Ensemble in Berlin and at the Philharmonie in Paris. He has made guest appearances at the Lucerne Festival, Munich Biennale, Beethovenfest Bonn, Bregenz Festival, Venice Biennale, ECLAT Festival Stuttgart, Ultraschall Berlin Festival, Acht Brücken Festival Cologne and Klangspuren Schwaz as well as at Wien Modern. He served as Music Director of the Ensemble Contrechamps in Geneva from 2011 to 2018.

Michael Wendeborg's opera repertoire ranges from Handel's Orlando to Mozart, Beethoven, Donizetti, Verdi, Bizet, Puccini, Strauss, Wagner, and Britten, and includes numerous world premieres. From 2014 to 2017, he conducted several series of *Die Zauberflöte* at the Berlin State Opera, as well as a new production of Aribert Reimann's *Gespensersonate*. In 2022, he gave his debut at the Semperoper Dresden with the world premiere of Torsten Rasch's *Die andere Frau*. From 2016 to 2023, he was "Erster Kapellmeister" at the Bühnen Halle (Saale), where he also served as Chief Conductor of the opera from 2020 to 2022. There he conducted premieres of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, among others.

Michael Wendeborg studied piano with Markus Stange, Bernd Glemser, Stefan Litwin and Benedetto Lupo, and conducting with Toshiyuki Kamioka. During this time, he worked as Toshiyuki Kamioka's assistant at the Wuppertaler Bühnen. After graduating, Michael Wendeborg held positions at the Nationaltheater Mannheim, Lucerne Theatre, and the Staatsoper Berlin, where he assisted Daniel Barenboim and guest conductors such as Pierre Boulez and Sir Simon Rattle.

As a pianist, Michael Wendeborg has won several national and international piano competitions and performed as a soloist at renowned festivals and with prestigious orchestras under conductors such as Jonathan Nott, Marek Janowski, and Daniel Barenboim. From 2000 to 2005 he was a member of the Ensemble intercontemporain and worked closely with György Kurtág and Pierre Boulez. In 2015, he played Boulez's complete works for piano as part of the easter festival at the Staatsoper Berlin and in 2018 at the Boulez Saal. The Berlin label bastille has released CDs featuring Michael Wendeborg both as a pianist (Boulez's piano works, 2021) and as a conductor (*Sur Incises* and *Eclat-Multiples*, 2025).

Season 2025/26

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