



## ANDRÉ DE RIDDER

### Conductor

*“The Bowie Prom was the most thrilling orchestration of pop I have ever seen - it dared to really reimagine the music.”* Telegraph

From producing records in Africa to curating innovative concert series in Melbourne, Copenhagen, Berlin and Helsinki - where he holds the position of Artistic Director of the Musica nova Helsinki festival - while commissioning genre-defying contemporary projects with his musicians' collective *s t a r g a z e*, André de Ridder embodies a unique position amongst today's conductors. He has formed close artistic relationships with a diverse range of artists such as Kaija Saariaho, Uri Caine, Bryce Dessner, Michel van der Aa, Damon Albarn, and performs regularly at international festivals, including BBC Proms, Iceland Airwaves and Sydney Festival.

He performs with orchestras such as BBC Symphony, Orchestre de Paris, Sydney Symphony, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony and New York Philharmonic. The 2015/16 season concluded with de Ridder's debut with the Concertgebouw Orkest Amsterdam, in a performance with the band Son Lux at Holland Festival. Debuts in the current season will include Ensemble Intercontemporain, Finnish Radio Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic and Toronto Symphony.

In spring 2016, de Ridder gave the world premiere of Saariaho's 'Only the Sound Remains' at Netherlands Opera, directed by Peter Sellars. He will revive the work at Finnish National Opera in spring 2017. Previous world premieres have included Damon Albarn's musical theatre works, Donnacha Dennehy's 'The Last Hotel', Gerald Barry's 'The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant', and Michel van der Aa's 'The Sunken Garden', the latter two for English National Opera. He undertook a Monteverdi project with Barrie Kosky at the Komische Oper 2012-2015 and makes his debut at Danish National Opera in summer 2017.

In 2013, de Ridder founded '*s t a r g a z e*', a think-tank pool of like-minded European musicians. Operating from Berlin, they quickly found a home at the legendary Volksbühne theatre, where they put on their own 3-day festival, '*s t a r g a z e presents*', performing with artists like Terry Riley, Tyondai Braxton, Nils Frahm, Pantha du Prince and Pekka Kuusisto. They appear regularly at the Barbican Centre and at Ruhrtriennale. In December 2015, they unveiled '*s t a r g a z e* orchestral', again at the Volksbühne. *s t a r g a z e* began the current season making their debut at the BBC Proms, in a programme reinterpreting the work of David Bowie. They make further debuts this season at Paris Philharmonie and in New York City.

De Ridder's discography includes Max Richter's *The Four Seasons Recomposed* (DG) and an album of orchestral music by Bryce Dessner and Jonny Greenwood (DG). The Max Richter recording was awarded an ECHO Klassik 'Classic Without Borders' award 2013. De Ridder was also credited as producer on the release of "Africa Express Presents: In C Mali", on Transgressive Records. This followed a trip to Bamako, Mali, with Damon Albarn and his Africa Express project. In Mali, de Ridder initiated and led a recording of Riley's 'In C' with local musicians, joined by travelling western artists including Brian Eno and Albarn.

André de Ridder was educated in Berlin and subsequently studied at the Music Academies of Vienna and London, under Leopold Hager and Sir Colin Davis.

#### SEASON 2016/2017

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