

“Clarity and accuracy. There are difficult productions in which you may not always hear the orchestra, so the cue becomes crucial. I also appreciate conductors who really breathe with me in long phrases. Daniel Cohen, who directs *The Turn of the Screw*, is a great example of this.”

Maria Bengtsson in an interview with VAN
Magazin, April 2018

DANIEL COHEN

CONDUCTOR

Biography

Daniel Cohen has been General Music Director of the Staatstheater Darmstadt since 2018/2019. From 2004 to 2014 he was Music Director of the Jersey Chamber Orchestra and Artistic Director of the Gropius Ensemble, creating projects which explored the threshold between music and theater.

Cohen maintains continuous relationships to the major Berlin opera houses - in 2015/2016 he was Kapellmeister at the Deutsche Oper Berlin where he conducted numerous performances including „*Così fan tutte*“, „*Don Giovanni*“, and „*La Traviata*“ and has been a regular guest ever since. At the Staatsoper Unter den Linden he made his debut in 2016/17 with Stravinsky's „*Le sacre du printemps*“ and returned for performances including „*Il barbiere di Siviglia*“ as well as a revival of the production „*Turn of the screw*“ by Benjamin Britten. Further invitations lead him to the Canadian Opera Company with David Alden, the Israeli Opera Tel-Aviv, the Teatro Massimo and to the Norske Opera Oslo (*Figaro*, 2019).

In the summer of 2019 Daniel Cohen made his debut at the Bregenz Festival conducting the Wiener Symphoniker in a production of Massenet's „*Don Quichotte*“ directed by Mariame Clément. The acclaimed production, released on DVD and broadcast by the BBC, was awarded the Austrian Music Theater Prize 2020 for „Best Opera Production“.

In the symphonic domain, he has conducted among others the Staatskapelle Berlin, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, the Dresdner Philharmonie, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra in Dublin, the Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne and the Sinfonieorchester Basel. One focus of his repertoire is contemporary music: from 2011 to 2013 he was a participant of the „Lucerne Festival Academy Composer Project“, lead by Pierre Boulez.

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His first seasons in Darmstadt he dedicates next to the classic repertoire like Mahler, Beethoven and Mozart also to the (Darmstädter) Moderne, including Maderna, Boulez and Varèse. Currently he conducts the Staatsorchester Darmstadt in a complete cycle of all Mahler songs. His opera projects have so far included „Fidelio“, „Zauberflöte“ and „Rusalka“ as well as „Le Sacre du printemps“ with the Hessische Staatsballett. In December 2020 an evening with Lilli Boulanger’s „Faust and Hélène (directed by Mariame Clement) will follow. In 2021 he will focus on the tradition of Baroque in Darmstadt and the Hofkapelle: With the „Darmstädter Barocksolisten“ (members of the Staatsorchester) he will participate in the „Barockfest Darmstadt 2021“ and the festival of Stift Melk in Austria.

In 2020/21 Daniel Cohen’s guestings include concerts with Antoine Tamestit and the Bochumer Symphoniker, with David Fray and the Duisburger Philharmoniker, the Orchestra della Toscana, the Münchener Symphonikern and the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra. Re-invitations will reunite him with among others the Ensemble Modern with the Winterreise by Hans Zender.

After his Studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London, Daniel Cohen was a long-term member of the West–Eastern Divan Orchestra as a violinist, where he also assisted Daniel Barenboim with many concerts and recordings. In 2013/14 Daniel Cohen was „Dudamel Fellow“ at the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra, one year later he was „Conducting Fellow“ at the Tanglewood Music Festival.

2020 / 2021

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