

## **Matthias Manasi, conductor**

### **Biography**

Matthias Manasi is an experienced conductor with an extensive repertoire range and is recognized for his knowledgeable and insightful interpretations, encompassing the great symphonic and operatic repertoire, historically informed performances, and contemporary scores.

Celebrated for the extraordinary combination of precision and temperament of his conducting and the fascinating depth of his musical understanding, Matthias Manasi stays in the focus of international attention and is one of the most prominent conductors of the younger generation. The 'Evening Almaty' described him as »one of the brightest and gifted conductors of our time, known for his charismatic and expressive manner of conducting«.

From 2017 to 2021, Matthias Manasi was music director of the Nickel City Opera in Buffalo, NY. With his inexhaustible creativity and unique artistic flair, he brought inspiration and innovation to the musical life of one of the most interesting cultural cities in the US.

Much in demand as a guest conductor, he works with numerous leading orchestras worldwide and the renowned opera houses in Germany, Austria, Italy, the USA, the Czech Republic, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Portugal, Finland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Hungary, Romania, Uruguay, Turkey and Brazil, such as the Münchner Rundfunkorchester, Wiener Mozart Orchestra, Staatsorchester Braunschweig, Philharmonie Baden-Baden, Orchestra Nationala Radio Bucarest, Orchestra Sinfonica do Teatro Nacional do Claudio Santoro, Orchestra Sinfonica Metropolitana di Bari, I Solisti di Milano, Orchestra Sinfonica di Roma, Orchestra Sinfonica di Sanremo, Orquestra Filarmonia das Beiras, Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra, Vantaa Symphony Orchestra Helsinki, Győr Philharmonic Orchestra, Liepeja Symphony Orchestra, State Symphony Orchestra Adana, Berliner Camerata, Südwestdeutsches Kammerorchester Pforzheim. As an opera conductor, he has worked at the Staatstheater Stuttgart, Staatstheater Braunschweig, Oldenburgisches Staatstheater, Staatstheater Kassel, Opera Leipzig, Theater Bremen, Opera Halle, Opera Kiel, Polish National Opera (Teatr Wielki) Warsaw, Opera Poznan, Opera Opava, State Opera Rouse, Opera Constanta and Stadttheater Klagenfurt.

The most important debuts in Matthias Manasi's 2019/2020 season were with the Orquestra Sinfonica do Rio Grande do Norte and with the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra in Tucson where he appeared also as a pianist.

Matthias Manasi's 2020/2021 season included debuts with the Orchestra 'I Solisti di Milano' (postponed due COVID-19), a new production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* for the Associazione Culturale Giuseppe Verdi in Milan (postponed due to COVID-19) a CD-recording with the Orchestra 'I Solisti di Milano' (postponed due to COVID-19), a CD-recording with the Slovak Sinfonietta (postponed due to COVID-19), with the Nickel City Opera *Aida* at the ArtPark in Buffalo, NY (postponed due to COVID-19). He was able to conduct concerts with the Southern Arizona Symphony Orchestra in Tucson (USA) and to collaborate in October 2020 with the Orchestra 'I Solisti di Milano' in Milan.

In the 2021/2022 season, Matthias Manasi returns to the Kazakh State Symphony Orchestra in Almaty where he conducted in 2015 and makes his debut with the Astana Opera Symphony Orchestra at the Astana Opera in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

The German conductor began his career at the Kiel Opera, where he worked from 1995 to 1997, followed by positions at the Oldenburgisches Staatstheater, the Opera Passau and the Staatstheater Kassel. From 2013 to 2015 he was under contract at the Opera Wroclawska in Wroclaw, Poland (Bizet's *Carmen*, *Les pêcheurs de perles*, Tchaikovsky's *Eugen Onegin*, Verdi's

*Macbeth, Falstaff, Rigoletto, La Traviata, R. Strauss' Rosenkavalier, Penderecki's Paradise Lost, Wagner's Parsifal, Fliegender Holländer, Eötvös' Angels in America, Szymanowski's Król Roger and Orefce's Chopin).*

From 2009 to 2013 Matthias Manasi was music director of the International PuntaClassic Festival in Montevideo, Uruguay. From 2010 to 2013, he was chief conductor and artistic director of the Orchestra Camerata Italiana in Naples, Italy. The Orchestra Camerata Italiana achieved under him outstanding quality with live recordings on Italian television, with numerous works from baroque to some world premieres.

His operatic repertoire includes more than 100 works, including numerous 21st-century operas, such as Elena Langer's *Figaro Gets a Divorce* (2016) and Marc Aurel Floros' *A Bad Man's Life* (1918). He is also famous as a conductor for ballet performances. A multi-faceted opera and concert conductor and passionate advocate for new music and film music, he conducts film-in-concert events worldwide (Harry Potter Film Concert Series).

Matthias Manasi has also gained international acclaim as a pianist and often plays piano while conducting.

Matthias Manasi studied piano with Andrzej Ratusinski at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart and with Carmen Piazzini at the State University of Music Karlsruhe. He studied conducting with Thomas Ungar at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart and with Karl Österreicher in Vienna. He was assistant to Heinz Holliger at the SWR Orchester Stuttgart, to Manfred Honeck at the International Bachakademie Stuttgart, to Miguel Gómez Martínez at the Münchner Rundfunkorchester and to Hillary Griffith at the Symphoniker Hamburg. He participated in masterclasses with Kurt Masur, Jorma Panula and Gianluigi Gelmetti.