

Biography

The conductor Rémy Ballot has been described by music critics as a rising star among today's young and aspiring conductors, thanks largely to the overwhelmingly positive reception of his recordings of the symphonies of Anton Bruckner. Much of the praise and honour given to his work in the music press has approached the reverential. His first recording, of Bruckner's 3rd Symphony (2014), was awarded the prestigious French *diapason d'or découverte* and the highly coveted *Pizzicato Supersonic Award*, which has been given three times in succession for the latest volumes in the series. Other accolades have included *Record of the Month* (8th Symphony, 2015) from the American magazine *Stereophile*.

Rémy Ballot was born in Paris and studied the violin, music theory and pedagogy at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris. At the early age of 16 he met the legendary conductor Sergiù Celibidache, who later became his mentor, guiding him and inspiring him to develop his own personal style. While still a student in Paris, Ballot founded his first orchestra made up of highly gifted young musicians, providing him with a platform to develop his talent for the first time in public.

In 2004, Ballot moved to Vienna to develop his musical career. Soon after arriving he established himself as a regular first violin in the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna State Opera Orchestra, performing under the most prominent conductors. He also gained the opportunity to work as assistant conductor for several projects, including Massenet's *Manon* and Hindemith's *Mathis der Maler* with the Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna at the Vienna Konzerthaus, and Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* at the Opéra in Nantes.

Through working and performing with various ensembles such as the Stage Orchestra of the Vienna State Opera, the Altomonte Orchestra St. Florian, the Academic Orchestra Association Vienna as well as the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire, Ballot continually extended his artistic repertoire. One unique result of these fruitful collaborations was a recording of Oliver Graber's *Concertino for piano and orchestra* performed under Ballot's baton at the Vienna State Opera in 2013.

Rémy Ballot has earned himself an outstanding reputation for tutoring young orchestras. In 2009/10 he was appointed Artistic Advisor of the Orchestra Academy in Ossiach (Carinthia) under the patronage of the Vienna Philharmonic. There he raised the playing standard of the mixed group of young up-and-coming musicians to an international level.

After having created a great stir conducting the Altomonte Orchestra in performances of Bruckner's Third and Ninth symphonies at the 2011 Bruckner Festival in St. Florian (Upper Austria), Ballot was made Artist-in-Residence of the 2013 festival. He continues as Conductor-in-Residence at the Brucknertage summer music festival in St. Florian, where he is engaged in performing and recording the complete symphonies of Anton Bruckner for Gramola Records in the Basilika Church of St. Florian – for many years the „spiritual home“ of the composer, who is now buried in the crypt beneath the famous Bruckner Organ. The next volume, of the Fifth Symphony, recorded in August 2017 during the Brucknertage, was released in March 2018. The most important french magazine on classical music wrote in his review on this recording: *„Rémy Ballot combines Jochum's sublime craft, Wand's austere clarity and Celibidache's immense inner breathing. But first and foremost he outstrips many others, such as Blomstedt, Haitink and Abbado“.*

Beginning in spring 2018 Rémy Ballot presides as Chief Conductor over the newly founded chamber orchestra KlangKollektiv Wien. The majority of the 40 regular musicians of the orchestra are also members of the most prominent and important orchestras in this most musical of cities, such as the Vienna Philharmonic, the Vienna Symphony, the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Tonkünstler Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Vienna Volksoper. The inaugural concert of KlangKollektiv Wien in autumn 2018 at the Vienna Konzerthaus will coincide with the release of the first volume in a series of the Schubert symphonies for the Vienna-based Gramola label, beginning with the ‚Unfinished‘ and First Symphony.

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