

GÜRZENICH ORCHESTER KÖLN

FRANÇOIS-XAVIER ROTH GENERAL MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF COLOGNE & GÜRZENICH-KAPELLMEISTER

François-Xavier Roth has been the Principal Conductor of the Gürzenich Orchestra and General Music Director of the City of Cologne since the beginning of the 2015/16 season. He is one of the most charismatic and boldest conductors of his generation. His repertoire ranges from 17th-century music to contemporary works, encompassing all genres. He is Principal Guest Conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra and Associate Artist of the Paris Philharmonie, which created this position especially for him to honour the range of his artistic activity. In 2003 Roth founded his own orchestra, Les Siècles, which plays on both modern and period instruments depending on the pieces, often switching within the same concert. Roth has a reputation for unusual programming, and his incisive approach and power of persuasion are valued around the world. He works with leading orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Together with the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne, he is celebrating the cultural metropolis of Cologne, with its manifold scenes and influences, as a *melting pot* in the 2020/21 season. Roth is also continuing his “Bruckner, the modern” concert cycle and recording all of the Bruckner symphonies with the Gürzenich Orchestra by 2024. Roth places great value on youth development and promotion of music. Children’s and interactive concerts, as well as cross-border projects, are an integral part of his work. In the 2019/20 season, François-Xavier Roth established the Cologne Citizens’ Orchestra in which amateur musicians make music side by side with the professionals. In 2017, the “Junge Ohren Preis” (Young Ears Prize) recognised the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne’s music promotion programme and thus also recognised the active support and promotion from François-Xavier Roth. In February 2020, Roth received the German Record Critics’ Prize.

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