

# **GÜRZENICH ORCHESTER KÖLN**

## **FRANÇOIS-XAVIER ROTH GENERAL MUSIC DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF COLOGNE**

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 17<sup>th</sup>-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. Other touring guest appearances with the Gürzenich Orchestra will lead him with a Beethoven programme to Hamburg, Munich, Lyon and London in the 2019-20 season. In addition, Roth will continue his Bruckner cycle with the Gürzenich Orchestra. Roth attaches great importance to promoting young talent and music education.

Children's concerts and concerts where the audience can join in, as well as cross-genre projects, such as in recent seasons with young dancers, the orchestra of the Rheinische Musikschule, Cologne's electro label Kompakt and the Iranian singer Shahin Najafi, are integral components of his work. In 2017, the "Junge Ohren" prize was awarded to the music education programme of the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne, thus also acknowledging François-Xavier Roth's active support and promotion.