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Biography



Jiří Rožeň

Conductor

https://www.jirirozen.com/

Jiří Rožeň's strong identity as a Czech conductor with a broad training is as manifest in his diverse and often adventurous repertoire as in the dynamic trajectory of his career.

In the 2026/27 season, Rožeň conducts in the Czech Republic, Poland, Turkey, and Switzerland. At the beginning of the season, he will give his debut at the Tadeusz Bair Festival in Poland (Baird's Symphony No. 2 *Sinfonia quasi una fantasia*), while in January 2027, the premiere of the opera production *Rusalka* at the Basel Opera is on the agenda. After guest performances with the Filharmonie Hradec Králové, he will make his debut with the Bilkent Symphony Orchestra in Ankara.

Nominated for Emerging Artist of the Year 2025 by the leading German magazine Opernwelt, Rožeň gives further proof of his enterprising spirit in the opera house. At the Prague State Opera he conducted the Czech premiere of Ligeti's Le Grand Macabre (presented under the auspices of the Opera Nova Festival, curated by Rožeň, which also staged the world premiere of *Kafka's Letter to his Father* by Jiří Trtík), and, the first Czech performance since 1932 of Erwin Schulhoff's *Flammen*; directed by Calixto Bieito, the production was nominated for an International Opera Award. Rožeň's repertoire at the Prague State Opera has also embraced Schoenberg's *Erwartung*, Weill's *Die Sieben Todsünden* and a pillar of the Czech operatic repertoire, Dvořák's *Rusalka*. In Ostrava he took charge of the Czech premiere of Luigi Nono's 1985 '*tragedia dell'ascolto' Prometeo* and he visited Sweden to conduct Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* for Gothenburg Opera. He collaborated again with director Barbora Horáková Joly on a new production of Janáček's *Káťa Kabanová* for Bergen National Opera.

In the Czech Republic, Rožeň appeared with the Czech Philharmonic (with which he has recorded Richard Blackford's Kalon for Signum Classics), Brno Philharmonic, Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava, Prague Philharmonia and Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra. As a proponent of Czech music, two of his signature works are Martinů's Symphony No 6 (which he has conducted with the BBC Philharmonic, Hamburger Symphoniker, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Seattle Symphony) and Miloslav Kabeláč's Symphony No 4 (BBC Symphony Orchestra, Camerata Salzburg, Czech Philharmonic, Musikkollegium Winterthur, NOSPR Katowice, Prague Philharmonia, Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra und Ulster Orchestra).

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Rožeň's substantial schedule has also taken him to the UK (Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Royal Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National, Scottish Chamber Orchestra), Germany (Bochumer Symphoniker, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Hessisches Staatsorchester Wiesbaden MDR-Sinfonieorchester Leipzig, Staatsorchester Kassel), Slovakia (Slovak Philharmonic, Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra), France (Orchestre National de Metz), the Netherlands (Philharmonie Zuidnederland), Belgium (Antwerp Symphony, Brussels Philharmonic, Flanders Symphony, Orchestre National de Belgique, Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège), Scandinavian (Aalborg Symphony, Danish Radio Symphony, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Stavanger Symphony Orchestra), Spain (Orquesta Sinfónica de las Islas Baleares), the USA (Utah Symphony, Naples Philharmonic), Japan (Hiroshima Symphony) and China (Nanjing Forest Music Festival). Rožeň's European festival appearances have included the Prague Spring Festival, Dvořák Prague Festival, Leoš Janáček International Music Festival and Janáček Brno Festival.

Among the soloists with whom Jiří Rožeň has collaborated are the singers Pavol Breslik, Lawrence Brownlee, Pavel Černoch, Victoria Khoroshunova, Kateřina Kněžíková, Ausrine Stundyte and the instrumentalists Mahan Esfahani, Kirill Gerstein, Vadim Gluzman, Andrei Ionita, Christian Schmitt, Josef Špaček, Lukáš Vondráček, Inmo Yang and the members of the Janoska Ensemble.

Born in 1991, Jiří Rožeň gained his formative experience as both an orchestral and operatic conductor after studies in Prague, Salzburg, Hamburg, Zurich and Glasgow (as Leverhulme Conducting Fellow at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). He went on to become a finalist at both the Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award and the Donatella Flick LSO Conducting Competition, and to spend two years as Assistant Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, working closely with Donald Runnicles and Thomas Dausgaard during the season and at London's BBC Proms and Edinburgh International Festival. He has been mentored by such figures as Garry Walker, Dennis Russell Davies, Ulrich Windfuhr and Johannes Schlaefli and, through masterclasses working under the guidance of leading conductors including Bernard Haitink, David Zinman, Daniele Gatti, Peter Eötvös and Jukka-Pekka Saraste.

2026/2027

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