

KARL-HEINZ STEFFENS
Conductor

Music Director: Prague State Opera
Principal Conductor & Artistic Advisor: Norrköping Symphony Orchestra

Music Director of Prague State Opera and Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor at the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, German conductor Karl-Heinz Steffens is recognised as a conductor of great distinction in both the operatic and symphonic worlds.

In 2019 he took up his appointment at Prague State Opera, his first production there being *Fidelio* in the newly refurbished house; preparations for Szymanowski's *King Roger* were under way when Covid-19 led to its cancellation. During the present season he conducts productions of *Der fliegende Holländer* and Schreker's *Der ferne Klang*, amongst others, as well as continuing the four-year *Musica non Grata* series he initiated, dedicated to "unwelcome music" written by composers who fell victim to the despotism of the 20th-century totalitarian regimes.

Last season he embarked upon his relationship with the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra, having been introduced to the ensemble in the context of a Brahms symphony cycle. Elsewhere in great demand as a guest conductor, recent seasons have seen him work with ensembles such as the Bavarian Radio Symphony, Berlin Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, Orchestre National de Lyon, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony and Zurich Tonhalle Orchestras. He is also a frequent visitor to the UK, making multiple appearances with the Philharmonia, with whom he conducted a Brahms cycle, as well as many other orchestras.

Prior to his conducting career, Steffens was a highly respected solo clarinettist who also held several orchestral positions culminating in the successive posts of Principal Clarinet with the Bavarian Radio and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras. Steffens has recently been awarded the Bundesverdienstkreuz in Germany for his services to music.