

Julien Masmondet is amongst the most-respected French conductors of his generation, with a reputation that was affirmed last season by the universal critical acclaim garnered following his hugely successful innovative concerts and operas performed by the ensemble he founded, Les Apaches.

Julien is developing a very promising international career and multiplies the projects conducting a large symphonic and operatic repertoire alongside new contemporary works and defending lesser-known works by French composers.

He guest conducts several major orchestras such as Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre National de France, Orchestre National de Lyon, Orchestre National de Bordeaux-Aquitaine, Orchestre National d'Ile-de-France, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège, New Russia State Symphony Orchestra, Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, Estonian National Symphony, Kremerata Baltica, Orchestre de chambre de Lausanne, Sinfonie Orchester Biel, Bilkent Symphony Orchestra, Teatro Filarmonica di Verona, Orchestra Giovanile Italiana, Orchestra della Fondazione Petruzzelli with soloists such as Emmanuel Ax, Nikolai Znajder, Tabea Zimmermann, Valeriy Sokolov, Jorge Luis Prats, Seong-Jin Cho or singers including Karine Deshayes, Sabine Devieille, Stéphane Degout or Sara Mingardo.

Julien Masmondet's 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 season features debuts with Orchestra del Teatro di San Carlo, Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire, Tonkünstler Orchester in Musikverien and Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.

Opera is also a key part of his musicmaking, in the last years, Julien made successful debuts at the Opéra de Montpellier with a new production of *La Clemenza di Tito*; he conducted Reynaldo Hahn's opera *L'Île du Rêve* in Paris, a magnificent work which he rediscovered and subsequently gave the first performance of it since its creation in 1898. He distinguished himself in spring 2018 with the success of the double bill combining Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* and the premiere of Zavarov's *Manga-Cafe* with the Ensemble les Apaches.

Julien enjoys a partnership with the Opera Comique in Paris, which began with Ambroise Thomas' *Hamlet* in December 2018, and continues in December 2019 with André Messager's *Fortunio* as associate conductor of Louis Langrée. In the next seasons, he will collaborate in the partnership between the Opera Comique and the Beijing Music Festival for the productions of *Carmen* and *Hamlet*.

Julien Masmondet was chosen in the last couple of years by several major recording labels such as Sony Music, Warner Classics, Claves Records and Aparté Music for recordings with the Orchestre National de France, Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo and the Czech National Symphony Orchestra.

His passion for cultural exchanges and encounters recently led him to form the Ensemble Les Apaches, a collective of artists whose aim is to reinvent the concert form mixing music genres and varied types of performing arts on stage. For the inaugural concert of the first season in last

January in Paris, Julien imagined a manifest evening with four world premiere connected to masterpieces by Ravel, Stravinsky, Satie, Delage with the collaboration of a video artist, light designer, singers and theatrical performers which has been acclaimed by the press and the public.

Since 2005, Julien Masmondet has been artistic director of the Festival Musiques au Pays de Pierre Loti, which he founded in the South West of France. Its programming, which combines music and literature and is dedicated to the rediscovery of works and rarely played French composers has distinguished the festival as one of the most original in the French cultural landscape.

Sharing and teaching is a very important part of Julien's approach, which has led to his involvement in projects which strive to reach a greater number of people, for example music for young audiences, concerts in prison, or for the benefit of disadvantaged groups. He is also conducting professor at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris "Alfred Cortot".

Born in Paris in 1977 Julien Masmondet studied composition and conducting at the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris "Alfred Cortot" where he obtained a diploma in orchestral conducting in 2002 in the class of Dominique Rouits. He then continued with Yoel Levi in Israel and with Benjamin Zander at the Royal Academy of Music in London. Following a very successful three-season term at the Orchestre de Paris as assistant to Paavo Järvi, who remains one of his most active supporters, Julien has worked with such leaders as Louis Langrée, Herbert Blomstedt, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Yutaka Sado, David Zinman and Bertrand de Billy.