

Nils Schweckendiek

Artistic Director and Chief Conductor Helsinki Chamber Choir

Since 2007 Nils Schweckendiek has been Artistic Director of the Helsinki Chamber Choir. Since making his highly successful debut at the Finnish National Opera with Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier* in 2006, he has performed in many European countries, the United States and China, and appeared at numerous opera houses and festivals, including the Leipzig Opera and Savonlinna Opera Festival.

Nils Schweckendiek is committed to performing contemporary music and has conducted over 100 first performances, including music theatre, orchestral, choral and ensemble works. He has recorded more than a dozen critically acclaimed albums for the BIS, Toccata Classics, Alba and ICSM labels, earning him a GRAMMY (Best Choral Performance for Kaija Saariaho: *Reconnaissance* in 2024), three German Record Critics' Awards, an ICMA Award, an Emma Award, two Gramophone Editor's Choice mentions, as well as four Record of the Year awards and two further Emma nominations in Finland.

His partners in choral-symphonic projects include the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Finnish Baroque Orchestra and Oulu Sinfonia. Nils Schweckendiek has worked with the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Norwegian Soloists' Choir, Latvian Radio Choir, Swedish Radio Choir, Croatian Radio and TV Choir, Chamber Choir Ireland, Coro Casa da Música and Orquestra Barocco Casa da Música Porto, as well as with SWR Vokal Ensemble Stuttgart, NDR Vocal Ensemble Hamburg and RIAS Chamber Choir Berlin.

Upcoming highlights include performances with the SWR Vocal Ensemble Stuttgart, Estonian Male Choir, Danish National Vocal Ensemble and Choir of the Norwegian Academy of Music.

Nils Schweckendiek studied music at Clare College, Cambridge, and orchestral and choral conducting in Freiburg and Helsinki. In 2020 the Society for Swedish Literature in Finland awarded him the Fredrik Pacius Prize for his services to Finnish music and in 2025 the Society of Finnish Composers awarded him its Madetoja Prize. In 2022 the Association of Finnish Choral Directors chose him as Conductor of the Year.

In 2014 he was appointed Professor of Choral Conducting at the Sibelius Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki, and since 2017 he has been Artistic Director of the Helsinki Music Centre Chorus.

Season 2026/27