

RISTO JOOST | CONDUCTOR

Estonian conductor Risto Joost excels by his specialized versatility and has gained widespread recognition for his work both in the opera pit and on concert stage. He has already held major artistic positions such as Chief Conductor of the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, Artistic Director of the MDR Leipzig Radio Choir and longstanding conductor of the Estonian National Opera.



Since 2024/25 Risto Joost is Chief Conductor of Wurttemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn, as well as Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of Estonian National Theatre Tartu since 2020/21.

Risto Joost is in demand as a guest conductor with orchestras such as Helsinki Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic, Norwegian Opera Orchestra, Tampere Philharmonic, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Lahti Sinfonia, Trondheim Symphony, Kristiansand Symphony, Vaasa City Orchestra, Latvian Symphony, Estonian National Symphony. He was also at the rostrum of Bavarian State Orchestra, Dortmund Philharmonic, Netherlands Philharmonic, Noord Nederlands Orkest, Philharmonie Zuidnederland, Antwerp Symphony, Flanders Symphony, Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Orchester des Teatro la Fenice, Slovenian Philharmonic, Prague Radio Symphony, Brno Philharmonic, Janacek Philharmonic among others.

In addition he collaborated with the RIAS Kammerchor, SWR Vokalensemble, Rundfunkchor Berlin, Swedish Radio Choir, Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir to name a few.

In 2025/26 he will conduct the Noord Nederlands Orkest, Kuopio Symphony, Liepaja Symphony and others.

At the Estonian National Theatre in Tartu, he will conduct Mahler: Symphony No. 3, Bartok: Concerto for Orchestra, Strauss: Eine Alpensinfonie, La Traviata (new production), Rite of Spring (ballet) etc. in 2025/26.

Risto Joost's discography includes four albums by Tõnu Korvits: *The Sound of Wings* and *You are Light and Morning (Sei la luce e il mattino)* with Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, *Hymns to the Nordic Lights* with Estonian National Symphony as well as *Moorland Elegies* (all Ondine). Furthermore it contains works by Haydn with Tallinn Chamber Orchestra, Peeter Vähi with Latvian National Symphony, Arvo Pärt with Netherlands Chamber Orchestra & Netherlands Chamber Choir.

For his artistic activities in Estonia and abroad, Risto Joost received the music award of the Cultural Foundation in Estonia in 2016 and was awarded the Young Cultural Figure Award of the Estonian Republic in 2011. He was Prizewinner of the Malko Conducting Competition 2015 and Jorma Panula Conducting Competition 2012.

Risto Joost has studied at the Estonian Academy of Music and received further training at the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. In 2008, Risto Joost graduated from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm with a Masters Degree, majoring in orchestral conducting with Jorma Panula.

Joost founded the chamber choir Voces Musicales/Voces Tallinn in Estonia in 1999 and has been Artistic Director of the Birgitta Festival Tallinn in 2017 and 2018.

Season 2025/26