

RISTO JOOST | CONDUCTOR



Estonian conductor Risto Joost excels by his stylistic versatility and has gained widespread recognition for his work both in the opera pit and on concert stage. The trained singer has already held major artistic positions such as Chief Conductor of the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra and longstanding conductor of the Estonian National Opera.

Since 2020/21 he is Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of Estonian National Theatre Tartu, since 2024/25 he is Chief Conductor of Württemberg Chamber Orchestra Heilbronn. From 2027/28 Risto Joost holds the position as Chief Conductor of Kuopio Symphony Orchestra.

Risto Joost is a sought-after guest conductor with orchestras such as Helsinki Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic, Norwegian Opera Orchestra, Tampere Philharmonic, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Lahti Sinfonia, Turku Philharmonic, Oulu Sinfonia, Trondheim Symphony, Kristiansand Symphony, Vaasa City Orchestra, Aarhus Symphony, Latvian Symphony and Estonian National Symphony. He was also at the rostrum of Bavarian State Orchestra, MDR Symphony Leipzig, Dortmund Philharmonic, Netherlands Philharmonic, Noord Nederlands Orkest, Antwerp Symphony, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Orchester des Teatro la Fenice, Slovenian Philharmonic, Brno Philharmonic, Janacek Philharmonic among others.

Upcoming highlights with the Estonian National Theatre Tartu include Wagner's *'Der Ring des Nibelungen'* and a Gustav Mahler cycle as well as invitations to the Royal Danish Opera Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Noord Nederlands Orkest and Kuopio Symphony.

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.

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, University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna as well as at Royal College of Music in Stockholm with Jorma Panula.

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

Season 2026/27