

MARC DESMONS

Viola and conductor

Marc Desmons develops a brilliant professional activity as a violist, orchestra conductor and teacher, articulated from a solid identity as a performer and ensemble musician.

Trained at the Paris Conservatory of Music and Dance, he won Third Prize at the Moscow International Competition in 1995, and the following year was a laureate at the Lionel Tertis International Competition. Since 2010, he has been principal violist of the Radio France Philharmonic Orchestra, after having held the position of co-principal violist with the Paris Opera Orchestra.

Marc has performed as a soloist with the Radio France Philharmonic Orchestra in Arvo Pärt's *Tabula Rasa* and premiered Graciane Finzi's *Fantaisie-Concerto* with the same ensemble. His repertoire also includes works by Bernard Cavanna, Morton Feldman, and Gérard Pesson, and he has recorded Benjamin Britten's *Lachrymae* with the Auvergne Orchestra under the direction of Armin Jordan.

A highly sought-after chamber musician, he has participated in the Marlboro Music Festival and international tours with performers such as Jonathan Biss and Elisabeth Leonskaja, performing in venues like the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and collaborating with the Ébène and Belcea Quartets. He also maintains an active teaching career as a viola professor at the Paris Conservatory and as a lecturer at the MMCJ Academy, directed by Alan Gilbert in Japan, and Musicalp in France.

From this solid experience as a performer emerged his growing dedication to conducting, collaborating on numerous occasions with the Radio France Philharmonic Orchestra on projects including an artistic residency program dedicated to Alban Berg and Anton Webern with soprano Barbara Hannigan, the premiere of Oscar Bianchi's *6db*, a concert-fiction performance for France Culture based on *The Little Mermaid*, a program of premieres at the ManiFeste Festival Academy, and the recording *Alla breve* for France Musique, dedicated to Stefano Bulfon.

He has also worked as an assistant to Esa-Pekka Salonen with the Orchestre de Paris on projects such as Pierre Boulez's *Rituel*, and with the Swedish Radio Orchestra. He was invited by the Orchestre du Auvergne to conduct educational concerts dedicated to Stravinsky, Toldrà, and Britten. His affinity for the vocal repertoire has led him to tackle works ranging from Bach's *Mass in B minor* to Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, as well as operatic pieces such as Offenbach's *Les Brigands*.

A long-time member of Ensemble TM+, first as a violist and later as principal guest conductor, he has led landmark projects such as *Revolve*, a choreographic performance based on Gérard Grisey's *Vortex Temporum*, and Alexandros Markeas's oratorio *Ypokosmos*, which has been performed numerous times at the Opéra Massy. He has also directed the participatory project *Symphonie-Villes-Monde*, which brings together amateur musicians with Ensemble TM+. Among his upcoming projects is *Vanishings*, a production with Ensemble TM+ and the Linz Opera featuring works by Janáček and Thomas Adès.