



Joonas Pitkänen

Joonas Pitkänen is a charismatic Finnish conductor recognized for his natural gravitas on the podium and passionate musicianship. Pitkänen has been praised for the clarity and efficiency of his conducting and his ability to shape the sound of the orchestra.

His approach is characterised by a sense of depth and quality, and in addition to the Nordic repertoire to which he feels a natural affinity, he is particularly drawn to the work of Mahler and Brahms as well as the work of Bartok and Shostakovich.

Pitkänen was principal conductor of *Monferrato Classic Orchestra* in Italy and is currently principal conductor of *Stadtorchester Zug* in Switzerland.

Pitkänen won 1st prize in *Citta de Brescia - Giancarlo Facchinetti conducting competition* and a distinction in the *11th Grzegorz Fitelberg International Competition for Conductors* in 2023.

He has made significant conducting debuts with esteemed orchestras such as the *Helsinki Philharmonic*, *Turku Philharmonic*, *Kammerorchester Basel*, *Slovak Chamber Orchestra*, *Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz*, *Filarmonica Bacau*, *Camerata Zürich*, *St. Michel Strings*, *Hradec Králové Symphony Orchestra*, *Symphony Orchestra Biel Solothurn*, *Bursa State Symphony Orchestra*, the *Presidential Symphony Orchestra Ankara*, and *I Solisti Aquilani*. This has led to multiple invitations for return engagements, notably, in 2024, he conducted the *Deutsche Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz* at the prestigious *Concertgebouw* in Amsterdam.

*"Pitkänen exudes natural gravitas, and his podium action is pleasing to watch. Without having followed the rehearsals, I dare say that the communication with the eager musicians has been excellent...
...there is a musical grip in everything he does."* (Hufvudstadsbladet)

As an opera conductor he has appeared with *Opera Studio Würzburg* and *Opernkollektiv Zürich* where he led the *World Premiere* of Joachim Raffs "*Die Eifersüchtigen*" for Naxos.

He was handpicked to *LEAD! Foundations Excellence Platform for Young Artists* where he is being closely mentored by *Jukka-Pekka Saraste*. Pitkänen also acts as Artistic Director of Finnish concert series *Feeling blue & white* in Basel, which he co-founded in 2014.

Pitkänen studied conducting in *Musikhochschule Würzburg* with *Ari Rasilainen* and cello in *Hochschule für Musik Basel* with *Thomas Demenga*. He has also participated in masterclasses with *Neeme Järvi*, *Esa-Pekka Salonen*, *Mark Stringer*, *Ulrich Windfuhr*, *Jukka-Pekka Saraste* and *Hannu Lintu*. Joonas is represented by *Stretta Artist Management*.

"Pitkänen, who clearly conducts the Zug City Orchestra with great dedication, also has a talent for communication, something that often fails in classical music due to the slightly intellectual language of the experts. [...] Collaboration and exchange with musicians such as Joonas Pitkänen, who belong to a younger generation and stand out for their openness, commitment and lack of preconceptions, can only benefit the classical music world in its necessary opening up." (Zuger Zeitung)