

Joseph Sieber

CONDUCTOR

Joseph Sieber is Assistant Conductor of the Basel Sinfonietta and Artistic Director of the Simple Symphony mediation initiative. The 'bridge builder for a new audience for classical music' (Luzerner Zeitung) founded the Central Switzerland Youth Orchestra (ZJSO) and has developed it in the seven years under his direction into one of the most versatile and sought-after youth formations in Switzerland. As a pioneer in the field of promoting young talent and developing innovative orchestral productions, he has won numerous prizes (including the European Music Mediation Prize).

Trained in Switzerland, England and the USA and now living in Paris, the young conductor was a Conducting Fellow of the Lucerne Festival Academy and the Cabrillo Festival in California. He has worked with renowned orchestras, including the BBC Philharmonic (UK), the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (CH), the Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz (DE), the Denver Philharmonic Orchestra (USA), the Plovdiv State Opera Orchestra (BG), the New Sinfonia (WL) and the Argovia Philharmonic (CH). He has also worked as an assistant conductor with orchestras such as the Orchestre National de France (FR) and the Philharmonia Orchestra (UK) as well as for conductors such as Susanna Mälkki, Marin Alsop, Cristian Măcelaru, Domingo Hindoyan and Jonathan Nott. In masterclasses and coaching, he has deepened his understanding of repertoire with Bernhard Haitink, Claudio Abbado and Johannes Schlaefli, as well as in 2026 as a mentee of Sascha Goetzl at the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire in Nantes. He also reached the semi-final rounds of the Jorma Panula International Conducting Competition and the International Competition Lovro von Matačić.

In the field of opera and musical theatre, Joseph has already been active in his youth as a répétiteur, composer and finally as a conductor. He was able to further deepen his collaboration with singers as a member and assistant of the Swiss Youth Choir and the EuroChoir and eventually assisted full opera productions at the RNCM in Manchester (UK) and ASU in Phoenix (USA). In the field of contemporary music, Joseph has conducted dozens of world premieres over the years and performed with specialised ensembles such as Ensemble ö! (CH) and the Ensemble Modern Academy (DE).

Joseph already attracted attention at a young age and in several disciplines: in addition to acting activities for the Lucerne Theatre or Swiss television, he performed both as a piano soloist and as a conductor at the Lucerne Festival in the KKL concert hall while still a student. His artistic initiatives have made waves beyond Switzerland's borders, for example when the music theatre project Verona 3000, which he composed and directed, was nominated for the European Music Education Prize, a recording collaboration between his orchestra and the beatbox vice world champion Steff la Cheffe topped the charts for months and a choreographed Mozart Requiem with the Swiss Youth Choir celebrated success throughout Switzerland. The charismatic speaker gave his first TEDx-talk in 2024 under the title 'Dare to be an Artist' and regularly hosts classical concerts and concert introductions.

His musical education began with piano lessons with Konstantin Lifschitz and composition with Dieter Ammann at the Lucerne University of Music; he also took private lessons with the Neuhaus pupil Esther Yellin. This was followed by conducting studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, which he completed with the highest distinction for his diploma concert with the BBC Philharmonic, and a doctorate in orchestral and opera conducting at Arizona State University under Jeffery Meyer.