



## HANNAH VON WIEHLER - *Conductor*

Hannah von Wiehler (née Schneider) is a trail-blazing young conductor, representing one of the most refreshingly, free-thinking and excitingly entrepreneurial voices of her generation. Apart from her wide artistic vision and academic preparation, she has also a natural affinity for languages (conversant in English, Hebrew, German, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, and Russian).

In 2022, she was awarded the Carlos Miguel Prieto Conducting Fellowship: she was recognized as the top conductor in the program, and was subsequently invited to work alongside Paolo Bortolameo in Mexico in 2023. In 2022 Hannah von Wiehler has been also Visiting Conducting Fellow at Verbier Festival and she has received a Women Conductors Fellowship of Royal Philharmonic Society for 2022/2023.

Her most recent highlights include *Eugene Onegin* at Opera Holland Park Summer Festival 2022, her Chinese debut with The Sichuan Orchestra of China, the returns with the Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra and the International Symphony Orchestra Lviv, the recording of the works by Ruth Gipps with the London Chamber Orchestra. She has also assisted Barbara Hannigan with the London Symphony Orchestra, and Simone Young with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington.

Von Wiehler is Founder & Music Director of the Orchestra VOX (formerly known as Oxford Alternative Orchestra), an ensemble dedicated to the intersection of classical music and social impact, based in Oxford, UK. In this role, she focuses on unusual programming, including a careful mix of classics, new commissions, and some of the 21st-century's most daring and genre-defying composers, such as Michael Gordon and David Lang. She's also experimenting non-traditional performance spaces in order to encourage wider community access to classical music, and as such the orchestra has performed in homeless shelters, hospitals, nursing homes, refugee detention centres, and even bars, in addition to more traditional concert halls. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, von Wiehler launched the Chrysalis Project: a multi-national initiative connecting internationally renowned film-makers, choreographers, composers, and the Orchestra VOX.

Born to American parents, von Wiehler was raised in Moscow, where she developed an early passion in for art and music. Her musical gifts were initially cultivated at Moscow's State Tchaikovsky Conservatoire as a violin student. She graduated (Bachelors Degree) in Russian Literature from Georgetown University. In 2020, von Wiehler completed her doctorate on the canon of Rodion Shchedrin at the University of Oxford, where she attended as a Rhodes Scholar.

For nearly two years, von Wiehler served as the personal administrative assistant to Valery Gergiev, as well as Director of Special Projects for the Mariinsky Foundation of America. During this time, and with Maestro Gergiev's mentorship and encouragement, von Wiehler turned her attentions towards conducting, undertaking formal lessons with Leonid Korchmar in St. Petersburg. Then she moved to United Kingdom, where she receives generous coaching from Jessica Cottis and Karen Kamensek; she has also participated in masterclasses with Paavo Järvi.

Although Russian music served as her entry point into conducting, this is by no means the exclusive focus of von Wiehler's rapidly expanding symphonic and operatic repertoire. She is well-versed in music of the 19th and 20th centuries, and also enjoys a natural affinity for contemporary music, with a particular passion for contemporary opera – with the OAO she has staged the Oxford premieres of *The cave* (Steve Reich) and *The corridor* (Harrison Birtwistle), in addition to producing fully stage performances of canonic works such as *La traviata* and *Eugene Onegin*.

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