

## Josep Pons – Chief Conductor

The Spanish conductor Josep Pons has been associated with the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie (DRP) – and its predecessor, the Saarbrücken Radio Symphony Orchestra – since 2006. At the beginning of the 2025/26 season, he took on the position of Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the DRP. Together with the orchestra, he is pursuing a multi-year artistic programme entitled 'Visions of Europe', exploring European identity from various perspectives. This season, his focus is on Europe's cultural roots. Further highlights of the 2026/27 season include a Spanish tour with the DRP and concerts with the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Teatro Nacional São Carlos, the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra and the China National Symphony Orchestra, as well as new opera productions at the Gran Teatre del Liceu.

From 2012 to 2026, Josep Pons was General Music Director at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona. Prior to that, from 2003 to 2012, he was the Artistic Director of the Orquesta y Coro Nacionales de España, of which he is now Honorary Director. He was also Principal Conductor of the Orquesta Ciudad de Granada and founded the Orquesta de Cambra Teatre Lliure and the Catalan Youth Orchestra JONC. In 1992, he was Musical Director of the ceremonies at the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

His discography includes more than 50 CDs and DVDs, and has won numerous awards including the Echo Klassik and Grammy Awards. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to 20th century music, Josep Pons was awarded the National Music Prize. In 2019, he received an honorary doctorate from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit in the Fine Arts by the Spanish Ministry of Culture. He was also awarded Best Music Director at the Premios Ópera XXI in October 2024 for his interpretation of Wagner's „Parsifal“, and is an extraordinary professor at the Royal Catalan Academy of Fine Arts of Sant Jordi.

Throughout his career, Josep Pons has developed close relationships with many of Europe's leading orchestras, including the Orchestre de Paris, the BBC Symphony Orchestra (with whom he has performed three times at the BBC Proms), the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, the Orchestre du Capitole de Toulouse, and the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo.

Josep Pons began his musical training at the Escolania de Montserrat. The centuries-old tradition of this boys' choir and the intensive study of both polyphony and contemporary music at this institution had a great influence on his further musical and intellectual development. From the age of 12, he also received organ lessons there.