

Andri Joël Harison

Artistic Career

Andri Joël Harison is the youngest scion of a musical dynasty from Antananarivo (Madagascar) - and already on his way to the big stages of this world.

The young Austrian pianist, composer and conductor, born in Vienna in 1995, discovered music for himself at a very early age, when he began playing melodious tunes on the keyboard at the age of just thirteen months.

He received his musical education in piano with Silvia Pereyra de Geberovich at the School of Music in Simmering, in singing with Christine Wagner, as well as at the Grammar School of Music of Vienna [Musikgymnasium Wien]. He completed his studies in opera correpetition and conducting with Prof. Konrad Leitner at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna.

He first appeared as a conductor at the age of fifteen with the premiere of his first composition for orchestra in the concert hall of the School of Music in Simmering. His orchestral piece Op. 10 No. 1 was performed by pupils of the School of Music Simmering and the Grammar School of Music Vienna.

He is a multiple national and international prize winner in Europe and overseas: "International Competition for Piano for Six and Eight Hands" of the Bavarian Academy of Music (Germany, 2010), eight-time prize winner of the Austrian Youth Music Competition "prima la musica" (2007-2014) as well as Espoir Prize winner of the 18th "Osaka International Music Competition" (Japan, 2017). As "Music Ambassador of Vienna", he represented Austria's young musicians at the 65th Chopin Festival in Duszniki-Zdrój (Poland) in 2010. He is also a recipient of the "Heinz-Arnold Memorial Scholarship" as pianist and répétiteur at the 5th International Competition for the Richard Wagner Prize of the Richard Wagner Foundation Leipzig (2018) as well as a scholarship holder of the Bayreuth Festival through the Richard Wagner Foundations Leipzig and Frankfurt (2018).

His previous publications include two solo albums and a scientific publication on the contemporary Austrian composer Josef Nejez.

As a composer, the breadth of his œuvre so far ranges from piano works to transcriptions and symphonic music; it currently contains around 100 works. He has been a member of the Austrian Composers Association (ACA). His most popular piano composition up to now, the above-mentioned „Fledermaus-Fantasie“ was recently premiered in London (previously in Bratislava, Leipzig, Vienna and Osaka) to great acclaim.

On 15 July 2019, his commissioned composition for the Tyrolean Festival Erl "Schlaflied" - a musical setting after a poem by Paul Celan for tenor solo and orchestra - was premiered at the Festspielhaus Erl.

In the same year (2019), Andri Joël Harison conducted the choir and orchestra of the Vienna Tonkunstvereinigung [Wiener Tonkunstvereinigung]. On the occasion of his conducting diploma concert in October 2020, he conducted the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra for the first time.

From 2020 to 2022 he had been a member of the newly founded Young Artist Program of the Vienna State Opera [Opernstudio der Wiener Staatsoper] as pianist and répétiteur. Within these functions, he supervised the premiere production of "Entführung ins Zauberreich" and accompanied master classes of KS Brigitte Fassbaender, KS Adrienne Pieczonka, KS Linda Watson, KS Daniela Fally, KS Camilla Nylund, KS Adrian Eröd, KS Michael Schade, KS Bo Skovhus, Lisette Oropesa, Louise Alder, Rachel Willis-Sørensen, Andrea Giovannini, Julius Drake, Helmut Deutsch and Bertrand de Billy.

On 5 March 2022, the first three songs of his latest song cycle for soprano and orchestra "The Ways of a Loving Woman" [Die Weisen einer Liebenden] (based on his own poems) were premiered in the version for soprano and piano in the Gustav Mahler Hall of the Vienna State Opera, under his direction at the piano, sung by Anna Nekhames, as part of an opera studio concert.

Andri Joël Harison is currently working as a coach for singers with a focus on opera and operetta.

Since the 2022/23 season, he is engaged at the Mainz State Theatre [Staatstheater Mainz] as répétiteur with conducting duties, ensemble coach and music supervisor. As music supervisor and ensemble coach, he has supervised around 130 solo roles so far. As musical assistant, he has enriched the productions of Samuel Hogarth (Sweeney Todd, Pirates of Penzance, The Beautiful Helen), Daniel Montané (Le Villi, Pagliacci, Rosenkavalier) and Felice Venanzoni (L'Angelica). In the course of preparing the Rosenkavalier production, he also worked as a dialect coach for Viennese.

In the current season, he is conducting the children's concert series "Peter and the Wolf".

From the start of the 2025/26 season, Andri Joël Harison will take on his new role as Kapellmeister at the Mainz State Theatre.

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www.andrijoelharison.com