

# Débora Waldman, Conductor



Appointed in 2020 as Music Director of the Orchestre d'Avignon-Provence (contract renewed through 2026), Débora Waldman became the first woman to lead a permanent national orchestra in France.

In September 2022, she was also named Associate Conductor at the Opéra de Dijon following a dazzling *Don Pasquale* in spring 2022; she conducted the Orchestre de Dijon-Bourgogne at the 30th Victoires de la Musique in March 2023.

Débora Waldman has already been invited to conduct the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, the Hamburger Symphoniker, the Staatskapelle Halle, the Duisburger Philharmoniker, the Orchestre National de France, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Orchestre National de Lyon, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, the Orchestre Symphonique Région Centre-Val de Loire/Tours, the Orchestre de l'Opéra de Limoges, the Orchestre Lamoureux, the Orchestre de chambre de Genève, the Jerusalem Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Johannesburg, and the Orchestre National de Colombie.

In opera, she has conducted *Aida*, *Stiffelio*, *Tosca*, *La Traviata*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Don Giovanni*, *Idomeneo*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *La Sérénade* (by French composer Sophie Gail), and the world premiere of *Madame Bovary* by Michael De Cock and Harold Noben at La Monnaie in Brussels. This season she will conduct *Don Giovanni* at the Opéra d'Avignon, *Cavalleria rusticana / Pagliacci* at the Opéra de Dijon, and *Dialogues des Carmélites* at the Opéra de Marseille.

A dynamic conductor, she is deeply committed to transmission through the Démonos project (since its creation in 2010), both at the Philharmonie de Paris and with her orchestra in Avignon.

Driven by a message of peace, having lived in three different countries before the age of 15 (Brazil, Israel, then Argentina), Débora Waldman was chosen to conduct the concert *Thessalonique, carrefour des civilisations* in honor of Arab-Israeli friendship.

She works within a tradition that believes one must "constantly question." She founded her Paris-based orchestra *Idomeneo*, which performs regularly at the Salle Gaveau.

In June 2019, she premiered the symphony *Grande Guerre*, written in 1917 by French composer Charlotte Sohy (1887–1955), whose forgotten score she rediscovered. In July 2021, she conducted its Paris premiere with the Orchestre National de France at the Maison de la Radio. A world premiere recording of this symphony was made during that concert, in partnership with the Palazzetto Bru Zane, and released in March 2023. This rediscovery also led to the publication of the book *La symphonie oubliée*, a dual portrait of the composer and the conductor, published by Robert Laffont. Her first album with the Orchestre national d'Avignon-Provence, *Charlotte Sohy, compositrice de la Belle Époque*, was released on the new label La Boîte à Pépites / Recording Women Composers. The recording received numerous national and international awards, including Diapason Découverte, Diamant Opéra Magazine, 5 étoiles Classica, and a nomination at the International Classical Music Awards.

She studied conducting at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique and quickly became assistant to Kurt Masur at the Orchestre National de France from 2006 to 2009.

In 2008, ADAMI named her "Talent Chef d'Orchestre," and in 2011 she received a distinction from the Simone and Cino del Duca Foundation under the auspices of the Académie des Beaux-Arts.

Débora Waldman has been represented by RSBA since 2024.

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