

Season 2025–2026
Liège Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Lionel Bringuier, Music Director (2025-2029)

Lionel Bringuier has been appointed Music Director of the OPRL starting in September 2025. He has ambitious plans for the orchestra, including expanding its repertoire, strengthening its relationships with the public, and enhancing its national and international reputation. In June 2025, he will conduct the OPRL at the Kissinger Sommer in Bad Kissingen.

Background. Born in Nice in 1986, Lionel Bringuier (38 years old) has already traveled extensively around the world at the invitation of symphonic orchestras, chamber orchestras, and opera houses. He has close ties with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where he served (2007-2013) as principal assistant conductor, associate conductor, and then resident conductor (a position created for him), alongside Esa-Pekka Salonen and Gustavo Dudamel. He has built a solid reputation across North America by working with the Cleveland, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco, Montreal, Atlanta, and Baltimore orchestras, as well as the New York Philharmonic. He has also worked extensively in Asia, regularly conducting the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra and collaborating with the Seoul Philharmonic and the Malaysia Philharmonic Orchestra. In Australia, he has conducted the orchestras of Sydney, Perth, and Brisbane.

Positions. Very active throughout Europe, Lionel Bringuier served as Music Director of the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich (2014-2018) and previously held the positions of Music Director at the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Valladolid) (2009-2012), and Associate Conductor at the Brittany Orchestra and the Paris Orchestral Ensemble. He is Principal Conductor of the Nice Philharmonic Orchestra (2023-2025). The programs he offers also allow him to invite several of his closest musical partners, including Khatia Buniatishvili, Philippe Bianconi, Daniel Müller-Schott, Gautier Capuçon, and Alexandre Tharaud for the current season.

For the 2024-2025 season, his engagements include concerts with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Sydney Symphony, Queensland Symphony, China National Symphony Orchestra, and the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, as well as a tour with the Metz National Orchestra and Victor Julien-Laferrière. Previous seasons have been marked by a return to the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Jean-Yves Thibaudet, performances with the San Diego Orchestra and the Colburn School of Los Angeles, as well as projects with the Dresden Philharmonic, Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, NOSPR Katowice, and Luzerner Sinfonieorchester.

Discography. Lionel Bringuier regularly collaborates with pianist Yuja Wang, with whom he recorded Ravel's Concertos (DGG). He has also recorded Chopin with Nelson Freire (Decca) and Saint-Saëns with Renaud and Gautier Capuçon (Erato), who are also regular partners. He works closely with some of today's leading soloists, including Lisa Batiashvili, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Yefim Bronfman, Emanuel Ax, Leif Ove Andsnes, and Janine Jansen.

Education. Coming from a family of musicians, Lionel Bringuier studied cello and conducting at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse (CNSMD) in Paris, winning the prestigious Besançon International Competition for Young Conductors at the age of 19, just one year after graduating. He is passionate about education, outreach, and developing the careers of emerging conductors and soloists. In September 2020, he was part of the jury for La Maestra, the first international conducting competition for women, and continues to work with schools in Nice to introduce children to classical music and orchestral experiences.

Awards. Lionel Bringuier has been appointed Knight of the National Order of Merit by the French government and has received the Gold Medal unanimously with the jury's congratulations from the Prince Rainier III Academy in Monaco and the Gold Medal from the City of Nice.