



## Liège Royal Philharmonic (OPRL)

Managing Director : Daniel Weissmann

Music Director : Gergely Madaras

**Founded in 1960, the Liège Royal Philharmonic (OPRL) is French-speaking Belgium's only professional symphony orchestra.**

Supported by the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (Belgium's French-speaking Community), and by the City of Liège and the Province of Liège, the OPRL performs in Liège – in the prestigious setting of the Salle Philharmonique (inaugurated in 1887) – and throughout Belgium (in Antwerp, Brussels, Charleroi, Hasselt, Mons, Namur, Saint-Hubert, Sankt Vith, and other locations), as well as in great concert halls and at major festivals around Europe (in Amsterdam, Paris, and Vienna, for example, as well as in Spain, Switzerland, and elsewhere) and in Japan and the United States. OPRL engagements in 2019 include a tour of Japan and appearing as a guest of the prestigious Enescu Festival in Bucharest. In 2020, the orchestra will perform at the Rostropovich Festival in Moscow.

Moulded by its founder, Fernand Quinet, and by its Music Directors (Manuel Rosenthal, Paul Strauss, Pierre Bartholomée, Louis Langrée, Pascal Rophé, François-Xavier Roth, and Christian Arming), the OPRL has developed a sound identity at the crossroads of the Germanic and French traditions. This course will continue under Gergely Madaras, starting in September 2019. The OPRL combines a determination to support new work and to promote the Franco-Belgian heritage, while also exploring new repertoire, with a recording policy that has resulted in more than 100 recordings.

Recent and ongoing developments in its discography include the *Sirba Orchestra!* project (DGG/Universal France), Respighi's complete symphonic works (BIS), and works by Saint-Saëns (BIS), Bloch and Elgar (*La Dolce Volta*), Ysaÿe (*Fuga Libera*), Franck (*Fuga Libera*, *Musique en Wallonie*), and Gabriel Dupont (*Fuga Libera*), as well as clarinet concertos with Jean-Luc Votano (*Fuga Libera*), and concertos by Boesmans (Cypres).

For almost twenty years now, the OPRL has taken up the challenge of presenting the greatest music to the widest possible audience through original projects such as the "Music Factory", "Les samedis en famille", "Happy Hour!", and "OPRL+" and specific series such as "Musiques anciennes" (early music), "Musiques du monde" (world music), "Piano 5 étoiles", and "Orgue" (organ). Since 2016, it has benefited from a partnership with the Mezzo Live HD television channel (in Europe, Asia, and Canada).

The OPRL is also very much committed to the social role it plays throughout the year, taking music to audiences with little or no experience of classical culture. It makes a particular effort to reach young people, via activities in schools, thematic concerts (including "L'Orchestre à la portée des enfants"), and especially, since 2015, through the establishment of neighbourhood orchestras with the ReMuA association (El Sistema Liège).

**For the season 2019-2020**

**OPRL** Orchestre  
Philharmonique  
Royal de Liège

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