

Matthew Rhodes

“...a young artist already making waves...”

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Matthew Rhodes

is the winner of the 2026 Princess Astrid Music Award. A graduate of the Sibelius Academy, he furthered his studies at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm and the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo.

Matthew Rhodes first came to international attention in 2023, when he became a semi-finalist of the Donatella Flick Competition at just 23, before competing in the 2023 Mahler Competition with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra. In April 2023, Matthew was invited to join the talent development programme of the Symfonieorkest Vlaanderen. The same year, he made debuts with: the Gävle Symphony Orchestra; the Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège; the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra; the Orchestra of Norrlands Opera, and the Västerås Sinfonietta.

Within 18 months, he took his bow with: the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra; the Malmö Symphony Orchestra; the Oslo Philharmonic; the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic; and the WDR and Gurzenich Orchestras, these last two as part of the German Conductors award. In the summer of 2024, Matthew attended the Tanglewood Summer Festival, where he was mentored by Stefan Asbury.

Season 2025/26 included: a return to the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra; the revival of *Die Fledermaus* with Vattnäs Konsertlada; a new production of *Turandot* with the Augusta Symphony, supported by the Italian Ministry of Culture, and a new production of Moravec *The Shining* with Malmö Opera, alongside Swedish conductor Patrik Ringborg.

Matthew Rhodes has taken numerous workshops and masterclasses with conductors such as: Michael Tilson-Thomas; Stéphane Denève; Jorma Panula; David Zinman; Johannes Schlaefli; Bjarte Engeset; Gerard Korsten; and Sian Edwards.

Matthew is generously supported by the Swedish Royal Academy of Music, and the Sverker & Birgitta Lerheden Stipendiefund.



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Matthew Rhodes reviews

2026 Princess Astrid Competition

Taking home the 1st Prize of 200,000 NOK was 27-year-old British conductor Matthew Rhodes. His victory is a significant feather in the cap of a young artist already making waves with the Norrköping Symphony Orchestra and recent operatic triumphs. His approach in the final round displayed a mature synthesis of structural clarity and emotional urgency—qualities that the jury, including seasoned veterans like Martyn Brabbins and Mei-Ann Chen, clearly sought to reward -

World Federation of International Music Competitions

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Matthew Rhodes opera repertoire

Composer	Opera
Andersson, B. Tommy	The Importance of Being Earnest
Jonsson, Reine	Strandernas Svall
Moravec	The Shining
Puccini	La bohème (scenes) Turandot
Strauss, Johan	Die Fledermaus

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Matthew Rhodes orchestral repertoire

Classical and Romantic

Composer	Work
Beethoven	Egmont Overture Leonore Overture No.3 Symphonies No.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8
Berlioz	Symphonie Fantastique
Bizet	Carmen Suite No.1
Brahms	Double Concerto in Am Hungarian Dance No.1 Serenade No.1 Symphonies No. 1, 2, 3, 4 Variations of St. Anthony's Chorale Violin Concerto in D
Bruch	Scottish Fantasy
Bruckner	Overture in G minor; Symphony No.6

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Matthew Rhodes orchestral repertoire

Classical and Romantic

Composer	Work
Dvorák	Cello Concerto Czech Suite Serenade No.44 Symphonies No.7,9
Elgar	Cello Concerto Enigma Variations Serenade for Strings
Farrenc	Symphony No.3
Gershwin	Rhapsody in Blue
Grainger	A Lincolnshire Posy

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Classical and Romantic

Composer	Work
Higdon	Machine
Holst	The Planets Hammersmith Suites for Military Band No. 1 & 2
Hummel	Bassoon Concerto
Haydn	Cello Concerto No.1 Symphonies No. 1, 88, 92, 100, 104
Karlowicz	Serenade for Strings

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Classical and Romantic

Composer	Work
Liadov	The Enchanted Lake
Liszt	Piano Concerto No.2
Mahler	Symphonies 5 & 7
Massenet	Meditation from Thaïs
Mendelssohn	Hebrides Overture Overture for Winds Symphonies Nos. 3, 4, 5 Violin Concerto
Mozart	Clarinet Concerto Concerto for Flute and Harp Eine Kleine Nachtmusik Gran Partita Overtures: Clemenza di Tito; Così fan tutte; Don Giovanni; Le nozze di Figaro; Die Zauberflöte Overture, Le nozze di Figaro

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Composer	Work
	Requiem Serenade in Cm Symphonies No. 39, 40, 41
Mussorgsky	Pictures at an Exhibition
Rossini	Overtures: Il barbiere di Siviglia; La cenicientola; Guillaume Tell; La scala di seta; Semiramide; Il signor Bruschino
Saint-Saens	Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso
Schubert	Symphonies No. 1, 3, 4, 8, 9
Schumann	Symphonies No. 2 & 4
Smetana	The Moldau
Strauss, Johan	Die Fledermaus (Overture)

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Tchaikovsky	Nutcracker Suite Polonaise from Eugene Onegin Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture Serenade for Strings Sleeping Beauty Swan Lake (extracts) Symphonies No. 5 & 6 Violin Concerto
Wagner	Siegfried's Idyll Tannhauser (extracts) Tristan und Isolde (Prelude and Liebestod)

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Nordic

Composer	Work
Agerfeldt Olesen	Violin Concerto
Alfvén	Symphony No.1, Gustav II Adolf Suite
Grieg	Holberg Suite Pier Gynt Suites No. 1 & 2 Piano Concerto in Am
Larsson	Pastoral Suite
Lindberg	Gran Duo
Nielsen	Helios Overture
Norman, Ludwig	Symphony No. 3
Saeverud	Kjempeviseslått
Stenhammer	Excelsior!

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Nordic

Composer

Work

Sibelius

Cassazione
Finlandia
Intrada
Overture in Fm
Pélleas och Mélissande
Preludio
Symphonies No. 1, 2, 3, 5, 7
Valse Triste
Violin Concerto

Stenhammer

Excelsior!

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20th Century & Contemporary

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Bartok	Concerto for Orchestra Divertimento for Strings Romanian Folk Dances
Beamish	Variations on a Theme by Benjamin Britten
Berg	Chamber Concerto for Piano Violin and 13 winds
Berkeley	Sinfonietta Op.44
Bernstein	Candide (Overture)
Boulez	Domaines
Britten	Four Sea Interludes (Peter Grimes); Simple Symphony; Variations of a Theme by Frank Bridge; A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

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20th Century & Contemporary

Composer	Work
Copeland	Buckaroo Holiday (Rodeo excerpt) Fanfare for the Common Man
De Falla	El amor brujo (Fire Dance)
Debussy	La mer, Three Symphonic Sketches, Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune
Copeland	Appalachian Spring (Suite and Full Ballet)
Hindemith	Konzertmusik Op. 41 Nobilissima Visione Suite Septet for Wind Symphony in B
Janacek	The Cunning Little Vixen Suite

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20th Century & Contemporary

Composer	Work
Prokofiev	Romeo and Juliet (excerpts) Symphony No.1
Rachmaninov	Isle of the Dead Piano Concerto No.2
Ravel	Pavane Ma mère l'Oye
Respighi	The Birds Huntingtower Ballade
Rimsky-Korsokov	Scheherazade
Saunders, Rebecca	Disclosure

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20th Century & Contemporary

Composer	Work
Shostokovich	Cello Concerto No.1 Festive Overture Symphonies No. 5 & 9
Strauss, Richard	Also sprach Zarathustra Der Rosenkavalier Suite Serenade for Winds Suite in Bb Till Eulenspiegel
Stravinsky	Apollon Musagète Concerto in D Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments Dumbarton Oaks Firebird Suite Histoire du soldat

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20th Century & Contemporary

Composer	Work
	Mass for Choir and Winds Octet Petrushka Pulcinella Suite The Rite of Spring Symphony in C Symphony for Winds Violin Concerto in D
Tubin	Extracts from Kratt (ballet)
Vaughan Williams	The Lark Ascending
Varèse	Integrales
Weill	Kleine Dreigroschenmusik Violin Concerto

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VIDEOS

[Final, Princess Astrid Competition, Mozart, Trondheim Symphony Orchestra, La clemenza di Tito \(Overture\)](#)

[Final, Princess Astrid Competition, Trondheim Symphony Orchestra, Brouwer, Sizzle](#)

[Final, Princess Astrid Competition, Trondheim Symphony Orchestra, Brahms 4th Symphony, 1st Mvt](#)

[Strauss, Johann, Die Fledermaus \(Extracts\)](#)

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