



**HARRISON PARROTT**

## Josep Pons Conductor

Regarded as the leading Spanish conductor of his generation, Josep Pons has built strong relationships with Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Orchestre de Paris, NHK Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and BBC Symphony Orchestra - the latter including several appearances at the BBC Proms.

The 2023/24 season sees Pons return to Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse for a European tour including the Berlioz, Ravel and Enescu festivals, Orquesta Sinfonica de Galicia, Orquesta Nacional de España, Orquesta sinfónica de Castilla y León accompanied by the Spanish violinist Leticia Moreno, and Orquesta de Valencia.

At the end of the 2020/21 season, Pons renewed his contract as Music Director of Gran Teatre del Liceu until 2025/26. His tenure began in 2012 and he conducts a number of productions in Barcelona each season, most recently *Don Pasquale*, *Macbeth* and *Parsifal*. In previous seasons he conducted *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Pelleas et Melisande*, *Wozzeck*, a concert performance of *Bluebeard's Castle* at the Opéra Bastille, as well as *Don Giovanni*, *Lessons of Love and Violence*, *Káťa Kabanova*, *Rodelinda*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Elektra*, and the world premiere of Casablanca's new opera *L'Enigma de Lea*.

This season he will give opera performances of *Eugene Onegin*, *Carmen*, *The Messiah*, *Bluebeard's Castle* and the *Sacre* with Ballet Sasha Waltz & Guests. He also holds the position of Honorary Conductor of Orquesta Nacional de España having previously served as their Artistic Director for nine years during which he substantially raised their international profile. He is also Honorary Conductor of Orquesta Ciudad de Granada.

Josep Pons' discography of over 50 CDs and DVDs, mostly released by Harmonia Mundi and Deutsche Grammophon, includes recordings of Falla, and French repertoire regarded as benchmark interpretations and earning numerous awards. His recording of *Noches en los jardines de España* with Javier Perianes won a Choc de la Musique, *Melancolía* with Patricia Petibon received a Gramophone Editor's Choice, and his collaboration with Tomatito earned him a Latin Grammy. His recording of Berio's *Sinfonia* and Mahler/Berio's *10 Frühe Lieder* with BBC Symphony Orchestra and Matthias Goerne, won the BBC Music Award, Choc de la musique, ECHO Klassik Awards and Téliorama Ffff awards. His latest release on Harmonia Mundi is the live recording of Granados' opera, *Goyescas* with BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Josep Pons began his musical training at the prestigious Escolania de Montserrat. The secular tradition and intense study of both Polyphony and contemporary music in this center marked his later development both musically and intellectually. In 1999 he received the Spanish National Music Prize for his outstanding work on twentieth century music. In 2019, Pons was awarded Honorary Doctorate from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona but he also received the gold medal for merit in Fine Arts, awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Culture.