

Press Release of the Salzburg Festival

## Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award

### Joel Sandelson is the 2021 Winner



Joel Sandelson is the winner of the 2021 Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award. Photos: SF / Marco Borrelli

(SF, 9 August 2021) Joel Sandelson convinced the international jury chaired by Manfred Honeck to award him the prize during the YCA Award Concert Weekend at the Mozarteum Foundation, leading the Camerata Salzburg in concert.

“I think it’s wonderful that here in Salzburg – Herbert von Karajan’s living-room, so to speak – there is this high-carat competition for talented young conductors. Each of the candidates was given the unique opportunity to conduct a fantastic orchestra such as the Camerata Salzburg in a concert programme they chose themselves. All the candidates gave impressive proof of their talent, demonstrating that the art of good conducting has a future. I would also like to thank the jury members, some from faraway countries, who gave their time for our young talents. The decision was not easy, but we finally agreed on Joel Sandelson because he put his naturally joyful musicianship at the service of the music and clearly conveyed his musical ideas. Finally, I would like to wish all those who participated the very best from my heart, encouraging them to continue on the sometimes thorny path of a conductor’s career, and never

to lose sight of the beauty of music, which all of us ultimately serve,” said jury chairman **Manfred Honeck** during the announcement of the 2021 winner.

“I am overjoyed to have received this wonderful prize from an institution such as the Salzburg Festival. I enjoyed working with the Camerata Salzburg incredibly, and I wish to thank the orchestra especially, just like the Salzburg Festival and the jury. I also learned a lot from my two colleagues. Winning was a wonderful surprise,” says this year’s award winner **Joel Sandelson**.

Newly reconceived this year, the Herbert Karajan Young Conductors Award is presented for the tenth time. It will take place every two years in the future. A total of 250 candidates applied, eight of whom reached the semi-finals in 2021. The **prize** carries a cash value of **€ 15,000** and will be awarded every two years to a young conductor aged 35 or under. Furthermore, the award winner will conduct a Festival concert in August 2022 with the ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna and a young soloist at the beginning of a promising career. This concert will be recorded and released on CD as part of the edition Salzburg Festival Documents.

The successful further careers of past winners, Gábor Káli (2018), Kerem Hasan (2017), Aziz Shokhakimov (2016), Lorenzo Viotti (2015), Maxime Pascal (2014), Ben Gernon (2013), Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (2012), Ainārs Rubikis (2011) and David Afkham (2010), demonstrate the international relevance of this distinction.

“There are few more rewarding tasks than supporting young musicians and giving them a future. I consider initiatives such as the Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award an obligation of the Salzburg Festival. We are very pleased and consider it a great honour that this award now bears Herbert von Karajan’s name,” says Artistic Director **Markus Hinterhäuser**.

The Festival wishes to thank Rolex, a great enabler of the arts scene. Thanks to Rolex, the Salzburg Festival is able to implement projects that are artistically important to its mission. Rolex is a main sponsor; Rolex finances the Salzburg Whitsun Festival and, since 2021, the Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award.



### Biography Joel Sandelson



**British conductor Joel Sandelson was born in 1994** and graduated from Cambridge University in 2016 with a first before continuing his studies at the Royal Academy of Music with Sian Edwards. From 2018 to 2020 he held the Leverhulme Conducting Fellowship at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, during which time he was also assistant conductor with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Thomas Dausgaard. He is artistic director of the baroque orchestra

Wond'rous Machine and they recently made their debut at St John's Smith Square and Southbank Centre. In 2020 he won third prize at the inaugural Siemens Hallé International Conductors Competition.

Joel Sandelson has conducted orchestras such as the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the Cincinnati and Jacksonville Symphony Orchestras, the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra and the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, as well as all of Scotland's major orchestras. Other important inspirations have come from his time at Tanglewood and from working with conductors such as Roger Norrington, Thomas Søndergård, Martyn Brabbins, Jorma Panula and Mark Stringer. He has also assisted Mark Elder, Jac van Steen, Edward Gardner and Trevor Pinnock.

Joel Sandelson began his career as a cellist, giving recitals and performing chamber music at venues such as Wigmore Hall. He also gave solo concerts across Europe and successfully took part in several competitions, as well as performing as a Baroque cellist with Britain's leading early music groups.

photo: SF/Erika Mayer

Photos for downloading:

<http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/fotoservice>



**100 JAHRE**

**SALZBURGER FESTSPIELE**  
**17. Juli – 31. August 2021**

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### **The Jury of the Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award**

#### **Jury Chairman:**

Manfred Honeck, Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

#### **Jury Members:**

Peter Alward – former director of the Salzburg Easter Festival

Gary Hanson – former managing director of the Cleveland Orchestra

Markus Hinterhäuser – Artistic Director of the Salzburg Festival

Brian McMaster – former director of the Edinburgh International Festival

Alexander Meraviglia-Crivelli – Secretary General of the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra

Pamela Rosenberg – former artistic director of the Berlin Philharmonic

Florian Wiegand – Director of Concerts at the Salzburg Festival

The Herbert von Karajan Young Conductors Award is an initiative of the Salzburg Festival in cooperation with the Eliente und Herbert von Karajan Institute.

Kind regards,

Press Office of the Salzburg Festival

[presse@salzburgfestival.at](mailto:presse@salzburgfestival.at)

[www.salzburgerfestspiele.at](http://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at)

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