

Dresdner Philharmonie

Press release
Dresden / September 23th 2024

New at the Dresden Philharmonic: Sir Donald Runnicles takes on Fellow

*Following an impressive audition with the Dresdner Philharmonie, the young Portuguese conductor **Miguel Sepúlveda** has won the position as the orchestra's first Runnicles Fellow. Numerous first-class conductors were nominated for the audition by their agencies. Finally five conductors were selected to present themselves to the orchestra in mid-September.*

Sepúlveda will be assisting Sir Donald with his Dresdner Philharmonie projects in December 2024 and February 2025. In the 25/26 season, he will also lead a project of his own.

The two-year fellowship was launched this summer as an initiative to support the next generation of leading international conductors and will continue with auditions every season. Thus, Sir Donald, as Chief Conductor Designate of the Dresdner Philharmonie, is already fulfilling his promise to actively promote the next generation of top conductors.

Miguel Sepúlveda:

Conducting the Dresdner Philharmonie during the auditions was an incredible experience. Having immediately felt such a high level of musicianship and support from the orchestra, I start the Runnicles Fellowship with immense gratitude and also excitement!

Sir Donald Runnicles, Chief Conductor Designate of the Dresdner Philharmonie:

It is important to the orchestra and me to promote outstanding young colleagues, and to pave the way for the next generation of conductors by allowing them to gain experience and by giving them space to grow in this very complex role. All the more I am excited to have discovered Miguel Sepúlveda, who really impressed the orchestra and me in the auditions. I am very much looking forward to accompanying him on his artistic journey.

Daniel Bätz, Musicians Representative of the Dresdner Philharmonie:

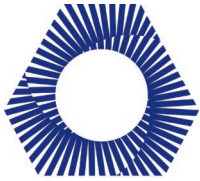
We are very much looking forward to Sir Donald's work with Miguel Sepúlveda. It will be extremely exciting to see how the interaction between the two of them develop during our rehearsals. Furthermore it is important for us to support promising conductors' careers from the very beginning and to connect them to the orchestra.

Miguel Sepúlveda will support Sir Donald Runnicles in the preparation of the New Year's concerts in December 2024 and the memorial concert in February 2025. His fellowship runs for two seasons; in the 25/26 season he will also lead the orchestra in a project of his own.

Miguel Sepúlveda will compete in the final of the Rotterdam International Conducting Competition in June 2025. He previously reached the semifinal of the Malko Conducting Competition in April 2024 where he conducted the Danish National Symphony Orchestra.

Forthcoming highlights for Miguel include debuts with Deutsche Philharmonie Merck and Sønderjyllands Symfoniorkester, as well as returns to Orquestra Sinfónica do Porto Casa da Música and Orquestra Metropolitana.

Miguel won Portugal's Prémio Jovens Músicos in 2022. The following year, he conducted Puccini's *Suor Angelica* at Operafest Lisboa and made his debut with Gulbenkian Orchestra – resulting in an immediate reinvitation.



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In the United Kingdom Miguel has conducted the BBC Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Manchester Camerata, in addition to assisting Domingo Hindoyan and Vasily Petrenko at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

Born in Lisbon in 1998, Miguel studied under Jean Marc Burfin and finished his Masters at the Royal Northern College of Music with Mark Heron and Clark Rundell.

Photos can be found in the download area on the [press pages](#) of our homepage.