

Thomas Hengelbrock

Music Director

Thomas Hengelbrock was appointed music director of the Orchestre de chambre de Paris in September 2024. With his arrival, the orchestra has welcomed an outstanding conductor of international renown, whose presence further strengthens the ensemble's distinctive artistic vision and its chamber music identity.

Thomas Hengelbrock is a truly exceptional figure in the musical world—a violinist, conductor, scholar, and musical mediator who has long captivated audiences and critics around the world. At the heart of his work lies a deep and rigorous engagement with the musical text—its meaning, structure, and substance, transcending eras and disciplines—in a unique approach that forms the foundation of his career.

He regularly brings to light forgotten or once-lost works, creating new dialogues with the established repertoire. Alongside his historically informed interpretations of works such as Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Haydn's *The Creation*, Beethoven's *Missa solemnis*, Wagner's *Parsifal*, and the original version of Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*, he also remains deeply committed to contemporary music.

For more than 25 years, as founder and artistic director of the Balthasar Neumann Choir and Balthasar Neumann Ensemble, he has achieved great acclaim with these groups at leading international festivals, concert halls, and opera houses. In 2017, he conducted the opening concert of the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. Through academic programmes, he shares his knowledge and experience with young musicians, fostering the next generation of artistic talent.

Thomas Hengelbrock is also a regular guest conductor with prestigious orchestras, including the Vienna Philharmonic, Munich Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre National de France, and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich. In addition to his work on the podium, he has staged several productions, including Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and has collaborated on interdisciplinary projects with actors Klaus Maria Brandauer, Johanna Wokalek, and Graham Valentine.

For many years, he has been deeply committed to promoting access to art and culture for young people, and to passing on his passion for music. He is particularly dedicated to the perpetuation of culture and to supporting independent musicians across Europe.

In 2016, he was awarded the Herbert von Karajan Music Prize, honouring the full breadth of his multifaceted and influential career.