

Simon Crawford-Phillips

Conductor/Director/Pianist

"The conductor Simon Crawford-Phillips proved to be an enthralling figure both as a musician and a stage persona... energetic, fast, constantly and thrillingly on the front foot." (Västmanlands Tidning).



Simon Crawford-Phillips has built a unique career as a conductor, pianist and creative programmer.

Simon is Chief Conductor of Västerås Sinfonietta (2016-2028) and is Principal Guest Conductor of Dala Sinfonietta. He was Conducting Fellow of the NDR Elbphilharmonie and in 2023 made a critically acclaimed debut with the Royal Swedish Opera conducting Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In 2025 Simon was made Artistic Director of the Swedish National Orchestral Academy (SNOA) at Gothenburg University. Simon's revealing and eclectic programming is reflected in an extraordinarily varied career, and a passion for championing contemporary and undiscovered repertoire.

Upcoming and recent conducting debuts include orchestras such as the BBC Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales with Lawrence Power, Ulster Orchestra, Norrlands Opera, Helsinki Philharmonic and Oulu Symphony as well as return invites to Stockholm Radio, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Royal Swedish Opera, Norrköping and Gävle Symphonies amongst others. Other recent highlights have included projects with: Neubrandenburg Philharmonic, Scottish Chamber, Zurich Chamber, Swedish Chamber, Gothenburg Symphony, Helsingborg Symfoniorkester, Sinfonia Varsovia for Warsaw's Lutosławski Chain Festival. Simon has broadened the Västerås Sinfonietta's reach and repertoire which now includes a Mendelssohn Symphony album cycle.

The Swedish Royal Opera Orchestra under the direction of Simon Crawford-Phillips manage to reveal the myriad of temperament and structure that the music contains, without the dreaminess disappearing".
(Swedish Royal Opera - Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - Svenska Dagbladet)

Simon regularly performs at major festivals and venues across the world collaborating with artists such as Daniel Hope, Pekka Kuusisto, Carolyn Sampson, Lawrence Power, Roderick Williams, Torleif Thedéen, Colin Currie, Konstantin Krimmel, Andrew Staples and Malin Broman in repertoire from Haydn and Schumann to Adès, Byström, Dean and Reich.

Simon's own chamber ensembles include The Nash Ensemble (he is Co-Artistic Director alongside Adrian Brendel), The Kungsbacka Piano Trio and Stockholm Syndrome Ensemble. He is the Artistic Director of the Change Music Festival in Sweden, Co-Artistic Director of the Wye Valley Chamber Music Festival and he curated a '26 chamber series for BBC Radio 3 at LSO St Luke's.

World premieres have included conducting Börtz's Violin 'Concerto for One' with Malin Broman and Norrköpings Symfoniorkester, Djuro Zivkovic's violin concerto with Pekka Kuusisto and the Swedish Chamber Orchestra, and the world premiere of a new double concerto with Tapiola Sinfonietta from Finnish composer Sauli Zinovjev written for Simon and Hugo Ticciati. Simon values every opportunity to collaborate directly with composers and has been fortunate to work alongside Britta Byström,

Sofia Gubaidulina, Simon Holt, Colin Matthews, Steve Reich, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Huw Watkins.

As a pianist, The Guardian says Simon has “*profound sensitivity and technical brilliance, achieving an expressive intensity that makes for compelling listening.*” Simon has long-standing relationships with Lawrence Power, Daniel Hope and a piano duo partnership with Philip Moore. Lawrence and Simon’s duo makes its Australian tour debut in 2027. Notable concerto debuts include the NHK Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Alan Gilbert, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Ilan Volkov and the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra directing from the keyboard.

As a prolific recording artist, Simon has recorded for Alba, BIS, Channel Classics, DG, Deux-Elles, Harmonia Mundi, Hyperion, LSO Live, Naxos, Nonesuch, Onyx, Signum Classics, Alba and DB Productions. In addition to radio and television broadcasts in Europe, Australia and Japan, Simon has also presented concerts for Sweden’s classical music radio station P2.

A passionate pedagogue, Simon is Artistic Director of the Swedish National Orchestra Academy (SNOA) at Gothenburg University, Professor in chamber music at Mälardalen University and guest professor at the Edsberg Institut.

Simon was elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in 2010 and is a Steinway Artist. Simon Crawford-Phillips is managed worldwide by Percius www.percius.co.uk.

This biography is valid for use until September 2027.

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