# Robert Guy MMUS FRSM

Robert Guy hails from North Wales and is a conductor and presenter who passionately believes in utilising the art's unique potential to communicate, connect and empower. Robert is an outstanding musician who is in high demand and has conducted more of the main classical and romantic repertoire than most of his generation across orchestras, chamber ensembles, choirs and opera. Robert enjoys a close relationship with Manchester Camerata and will make his debut with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in December. An advocate of new music he has conducted 50 world premières.

*@RobGuyConductor and Author of #The Conductor Guy: The Classical Music Podcast*

*#50 world premières #241 student conductors*

## CONTACTS


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*"A first class musician, he has excellent communication skills both with his gesture and in his manner with his colleagues. He hears well and analyses well. He runs efficient and tight rehearsals"*

**Simon Halsey CBE**
Conductor Laureate,
Rundfunkchor Berlin

Choral Director, London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus

## PRIZES

Bursary and Scholarshsip Award Winner for St Magnus International Music Festival 2015

Scholarship to Berlin Philharmonic, 'Conductors Lab' at Aix-en-Provence 2014

Scholarship to International Masterclasses Berlin with Mikhail Jurowski 2013

Scholarship to London Master Classes 2012

Orion Young Conductor Award 2011

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Includes artistic curation, guest and assistant conductor roles, engagement projects, concert presentation and professional playing.

- Robert will make his debut with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in December, conducting two family Christmas concerts.
- Robert is Co-Founder and Artistic Director of NEW Sinfonia, a multi faceted arts organisation which boasts a professional chamber orchestra, community vocal ensemble NEW Voices and education programme NEW Academi, based in North Wales. *www.newsinfonia.org.uk*
- As part of his work with NEW Sinfonia, in September Robert conducted the National Youth Chamber Choir of Great Britain and the world première of a new opera by Paul Mealor called *Gelert*. Robert has worked with Welsh National Opera and leading soloists and composers including Rebecca Dale, Ye-Eun Choi, Tamsin Waley Cohen, Federico Colli and Raphael Wallfisch, and has led engagement workshops featured by the BBC.
- Robert enjoys a close relationship with Manchester Camerata where he has performed with Tine Thing Helseth, conducted and presented concerts for Orchestra Live, recorded for Sony Playstation and performed for the Manchester International Festival.
- Robert was selected by Kirill Karabits to work with the Britten Pears Orchestra and by Jorma Panula as part of his Panula Academy in Finland working with the Turku Philharmonic. Internationally, Robert has been selected for prestigious masterclasses working with the Berlin Philharmonic in Aix-en-Provence, Neemi Järvi, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Berlin Sinfonietta and the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival Chorus.
- Assistant Conductor to Mark Wigglesworth/BBC Philharmonic. Assistant Conductor to Simon Halsey/BBC Proms Youth Choir. Robert forged links between BBC, Hallé and Uni of Manchester, enabling students to perform at BBC Proms.
- Robert is Principal Guest Conductor to Stockport Symphony Orchestra and guest conducts Immix Ensemble, a new music ensemble based in Liverpool.
- Robert has made his debuts with the Orchestra of Opera North and Huddersfield Choral Society. With the HCS he has conducted Walton's Belshazzar's Feast, Britten's War Requiem and the concert version of Gershwin's Porgy and Bess.
- Robert is frequently in demand as an empathetic and committed conductor of youth orchestras. Nationally, Robert has conducted the National Youth Orchestra of Wales at St David's Hall and Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff, Hallé Youth Orchestra, and Pro Corda at Cadogan Hall in London. Internationally, he has been invited to conduct for the World Orchestra Festival, Asia Pacific Orchestra Festival (APAC) in Vietnam, Association of Music in International Schools (AMIS) in Salzburg, Haileybury Astana in Kazakhstan and the North London Collegiate School (NLCS) in South Korea.

## EDUCATION

**Royal Northern College of Music** (2009 - 2012)
**MMus & FRSM** in Solo Performance. 82% in Conducting

**University of Manchester** (2006 - 2009)
**BMus Hons** 2:1
**DipLCM** in Pianoforte

*"I was impressed with a really fine young Welsh conductor, Robert Guy, with whom I had the great pleasure of playing the Elgar Concerto. In my opinion Robert has the relaxed authority, excellent technique, deep musicality and winning personality that is all too rare"*
**Raphael Wallfisch**
International Cellist

## INTERESTS

Learning German via Pimsleur Level 3

Keen runner - first Peak District trail in early 2020

Former member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales

Liverpool FC Fan

## PROFESSIONAL PLAYING

- Robert's collaborative approach to building trust with musicians has been shaped by his early professional career as a viola player, where he notably played with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra of Opera North and alongside the Allegri and Edinburgh String Quartets.
- Member of prizewinning Medlock Quartet and artist for 'Live Music Now'.
- Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra Professional Experience Scheme - 2010 - 2011.

## CURRENT ROLES/EMPLOYMENT

**Director of Ensembles and Head of Choral Programme at University of Manchester (2016 - present)**

- Conductor of University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra and Chorus.
- Director of elite undergraduate conducting programme, including teaching and mentoring selected instrumental and choral conductors.
- In these roles he directed the first performance of Barry Cooper's new Bärenreiter edition of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, commissioned a new choral work *Light Into My Dark* by John Casken and has led memorable performances ranging from Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* to Rachmaninoff's *Symphonic Dances*. Recent and current conducting students are rapidly making their way in the profession with organisations which include RSNO Chorus, The Hallé, NYCGB Fellowship Programme, RTÉ Concert Orchestra and Buxton International Festival. He is also a faculty member for Cardiff International Academy of Conducting.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

**Tutor in Conducting at University of Huddersfield (2015 - 2022)**

- Devised and delivered two BMus courses. Taught and mentored students with particular focus on equipping aspiring music teachers with conducting skills to build their confidence in directing ensembles.

**Principal Conductor to Huddersfield Philharmonic (2013 - 2019)**

- Highlights include concerts with Huddersfield Choral Society in performances of Britten's War Requiem and Walton's Belshazzar's Feast.

**Musical Director to the Orchestra of Square Chapel (2011 - 2022)**

- Orchestra in residence at Square Chapel Arts Centre Halifax. Concerts with Nicholas McCarthy and film score 'Battle of the Ancre' by Laura Rossi.

**Trafford Music Service (2009 - 2018)**

- Conductor of Junior Strings Ensemble and Sinfonia Youth Orchestra.
- Choral Director at Sale High School and Altrincham Grammar School for Boys.
- String, voice and keyboard teacher at primary and secondary level including at Manor Academy, a mixed secondary school for students with special needs.