

Yaroslav Shemet

Conductor

"While interpreting the old Haydn's piece, Shemet and his musicians breathed a new life into it. As if one listened to it for the first time – it was vigorous, fresh, delicate and balanced (...)."



Yaroslav Shemet is one of the fast-rising conductors of the young generation who have emerged in Europe in recent years. Shemet caught wider attention in 2021 when he became the youngest music director of a philharmonic orchestra ever in Poland at the age of 25. Renowned for his orchestra-building qualities, excellent rapport with the musicians and insightful interpretations, at 30, Yaroslav Shemet holds the positions of Artistic Director with the Silesian Philharmonic in Katowice and General Music Director of the Baltic Opera in Gdańsk.

Born in Ukraine, Yaroslav Shemet began his music education at the age of three studying voice, piano and clarinet. He then continued his studies at the conducting class for special talent at the Kharkiv Conservatory. By the age of 13 Shemet had already worked as orchestral conductor touring with orchestras in Europe and Asia. He later went on to further his conducting training at the I.J. Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań and the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst in Vienna. During academic years Shemet founded the Musique Moderne Orchestra, dedicated to contemporary music. He was also co-founder and artistic director of the Polish Symphony Orchestra which gathered the best musicians in Poland. In the 2018/2019 season Yaroslav Shemet worked as assistant conductor to Oksana Lyniv with the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, and he collaborated as guest conductor with the Lviv Opera and Odesa Opera where he led performances of Mozart's *La finta giardiniera*. During the 2020/2021 season Shemet was chief conductor of the Lviv International Symphony Orchestra, and from 2020 to 2022 he served as first guest conductor of the Neue Philharmonie in Hamburg.

Yaroslav Shemet's past engagements include concerts with the Prague Symphony Orchestra, Staatstheater Braunschweig, Sinfonia Varsovia and Sinfonia Iuventus, and appearances at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Shanghai Grand Theatre, Konserthuset Stockholm, Lviv National Philharmonic Hall as well as at the festivals in Bayreuth, Munich and Hong Kong. A passionate advocate for Ukrainian music, Shemet frequently conducts works by Ukrainian composers with NFM Wrocław Philharmonic, Baltic State Philharmonic and Poznań Philharmonic orchestras among others. Highlights of his collaborations include partnerships with esteemed soloists such as Sonya Yoncheva, Tomasz Konieczny and Roman Simović.

In 2018 Yaroslav Shemet made his debut at the Baltic Opera in Gdańsk conducting Bizet's *Les pêcheurs de perles*. Five years later, as the newly appointed General Music Director of the Baltic Opera, he has been leading new productions of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, Moniuszko's *Haunted Manor* and Strauss' *Rosenkavalier*. Yaroslav Shemet also made his successful debuts at the Polish National Opera conducting a new production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and at Wrocław Opera with Strauss' *Salome*. His recent and future engagements include performances of Szymanowski's *King Roger*, Bizet's *Carmen* and Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer* at the Baltic Opera, recordings of Mahler's symphony cycle with the Silesian Philharmonic for Medici, and debuts with the Prague State Opera, Presidential Orchestra in Ankara, Lithuanian National Symphony, Zagreb Philharmonic and Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla.

Season 2026/2027