

SONIA BEN-SANTAMARIA
CONDUCTOR

Named *Rising Star of Classical Music* by the BBC Opera magazine, the French conductor Ben-Santamaria is rapidly establishing herself as one of the UK's most promising opera conductors.

In 2017/2018, Sonia made history as the first female conductor appointed as a Link Artist with the Royal Ballet & Opera House's Jette Parker Artists Programme in London. This groundbreaking achievement led to her becoming the first woman to hold the position of Associate Conductor at Opera North, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of gender representation in the UK's classical music scene. The conductor was also one of only six female conductors worldwide invited to The Dallas Opera House Hart Institut.

Before establishing herself as a conductor, Sonia began her career as a vocal coach and répétiteur working successfully with all the major Opera Houses in the UK, collaborating under the batons of esteemed conductors such as Edward Gardner OBE, Sir Richard Armstrong, Sir Andrew Davis, Lawrence Foster.

Equally at ease in both the Symphonic and Operatic repertoires, Sonia is particularly sought-after in Contemporary Opera and has conducted several world premieres. Her conducting is praised for its enthusiasm, charisma, and clear, expressive technique, which captivates both musicians and audiences alike.

2022 marked her conducting debut in France, alongside her appointment as Professor of Orchestral Conducting at the Institut Supérieur des Arts et du Design de Toulouse.

Sonia Ben-Santamaria's guesting conducting highlights include leading, among others: the Dallas Opera Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Opera North Orchestra, City of London Sinfonia, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Orchestre National de Lille, and Opéra Orchestre National de Montpellier.

In 2025/26 the conductor will make her debut with the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne before returning to the Opéra Orchestre National de Montpellier and the Grand Théâtre de Genève.