

Press Announcement

BENJAMIN GOODSON Chief Conductor, Netherlands Radio Choir

The 28-year-old English conductor Benjamin Goodson is the new Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Choir. He will lead the choir from September 1st, 2020 for a period of at least three years.

Benjamin Goodson made a stunning debut with the Netherlands Radio Choir early July 2018 when he prepared the choir for the Mozart *Requiem* in the Concertgebouw. After his return for the Delius opera *A Village Romeo and Juliet* in the NTR Saturday Matinee on 15 December 2018, many members of the choir expressed overwhelming enthusiasm in favour of inviting him to become their new Chief Conductor.

ROLAND KIEFT, GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE STICHTING OMROEP MUZIEK:

“I am very happy with the appointment of Benjamin Goodson as Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Choir. With Benjamin, the choir has appointed one of the most talented choir conductors of this moment. Benjamin Goodson combines a mature conception of his role as a Chief Conductor with an open view towards new generations of listeners, media-consumers and concertgoers. His interest in new music and new partnerships also played an important role in his appointment.”

BENJAMIN GOODSON:

“I am thrilled to have been appointed chief conductor-elect of the Netherlands Radio Choir. From our first project together I felt a heartfelt connection to this wonderful ensemble, a jewel within Europe’s classical musical landscape. For me, the choir is defined by the intensity and vibrancy of its sound – its humanity. I look forward to working together to explore new repertoire and new ways to engage with our audiences.”

About Benjamin Goodson

Born in Hertfordshire, UK, Benjamin Goodson studied music at Hertford College, Oxford, where he was awarded the University's top conducting prize. He studied conducting with Sir Colin Davis, Paul Spicer, Peter Stark and Ulrich Windfuhr. Three years after graduating, Goodson was appointed Director of Music at Somerville College, becoming the University of Oxford's youngest Director of Music.

Benjamin Goodson is musical director of Bath Camerata and chorus director at Dorset Opera Festival. Since 2015 he has served as chorus master and assistant conductor to the Grammy-winning Rundfunkchor Berlin, a post he will relinquish to take up this chief conductorship. Goodson prepares choirs for the world's leading conductors and orchestras, including Sir Simon Rattle and the Berliner Philharmoniker, Christian Thielemann, Ivan Fischer, Vladimir Jurowski and others.

In the 2018/9 season Goodson works as a guest conductor with the Netherlands Radio Choir, NDR Chor Hamburg, MDR Chor Leipzig, and the chorus of the London Symphony Orchestra, which he prepares for a performance at the BBC Proms. He appeared at the Musikfest Berlin to conduct Feldman's *Rothko Chapel* with Tabea Zimmermann and the Rundfunkchor Berlin.

Goodson is committed to exploring new avenues of choral performance. He has staged Bach's *Matthew Passion* with Tom Guthrie, performed as co-conductor in Rundfunkchor Berlin's *Human Requiem*, and assisted in developing Robert Wilson's ground-breaking staging of the Bach Motets.

Benjamin Goodson will be appointed for a period of three years with an option to continue the collaboration. He will work alongside first guest conductor Peter Dijkstra and permanent guest conductor Michael Gläser.

Klaas Stok will terminate his duties as choir leader of the Netherlands Radio Choir at the end of the 2019-2020 season, partly because of his work as chief-conductor of the NDR Chor Hamburg and his work with other choirs abroad. He will come back as a guest conductor with the choir in the next seasons.

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