



## Conrad van Alphen | Biography Conductor

"The charismatic conductor Conrad van Alphen breathed an impressive breath of fresh air into this truly symphonic marathon."

Conrad van Alphen is known as much for entrepreneurial spirit and depth of preparation as he is for performances that combine exceptional sensitivity, vision and freshness. Van Alphen's interpretations stand for musical quality paired with extraordinary sensitivity, visionary power, musical farsightedness, and energetic freshness.

In 2000 Conrad van Alphen founded the Sinfonia Rotterdam. With its own concert series in De Doelen Rotterdam, Royal Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Nieuwe Kerke Den Haag, the orchestra has become an indispensable part of the Dutch cultural landscape. Under van Alphen's direction, it developed into an internationally recognized ensemble and toured Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, China, and Russia.

Since the 2020/21 season, Conrad van Alphen has also been principal guest conductor of the Philharmonic Orchestra Republic of North Macedonia.

Van Alphen was principal conductor of the Safonov State Philharmonic Orchestra for four years. He also performed regularly in Russia, for example with the Russian National Orchestra, in the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory and the legendary Tchaikovsky Concert Hall.

As a guest conductor, Conrad van Alphen has worked with major orchestras worldwide, including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonic Orchestras of Brussels and Bogotá, the Residentie Orkest Den Haag, the Stuttgart and Bochum Symphony Orchestras and the Orchestra of the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona. He is not only considered an accomplished conductor of the symphonic and operatic repertoire, but also for his interpretations of cantatas, masses and oratorios such as Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Handel's *Messiah* or the requiems by Fauré, Verdi and Mozart. In addition, Conrad van Alphen is always open to contemporary works, crossover projects and the implementation of new ideas.

In the recording studio, the conductor has worked for the labels *Channel Classics*, *Telarc*, *Talent Records*, *Cybele*, *ARS Production* and *Brilliant Classics*. His CD of music by Joaquin Rodrigo with Sinfonia Rotterdam became Gramophone Magazine's *Editor's Choice*. Van Alphen publishes live recordings on YouTube and the Sinfonia Live label. For ARS, van Alphen conducts the North German Philharmonic and cellist Benjamin Kruithof with works by Rachmaninov and Glazunov.

Conrad van Alphen regularly works with internationally renowned soloists, including Benjamin Schmid, Ronald Brautigam, Alban Gerhardt, Simone Lamsma or Nikita Boriso-Glebky, Mikhail Pletnev, Nikolai Luganski or Alexei Volodin.

The conductor was born in 1963 in Pretoria, South Africa. After an extensive musical education, he moved to the Netherlands at the age of 26, where he was a member of the double bass section of the Hilversum Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Beethoven Academy Antwerp. He studied conducting in the class of Eri Klas and Roberto Benzi.