

HUBA HOLLÓKŐI

CONDUCTOR · VIOLINIST · ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

LISTENING · CLARITY · TRUST

"Mr. Huba Hollokoi is an inborn musician. I know him as an excellent conductor, violinist and orchestra leader."

— Jorma Panula

INTERNATIONAL CAREER

Hungarian conductor and violinist Huba Hollókői has built his artistic career between Central European and Nordic musical traditions. Beginning violin at the age of four, he developed his musical foundation as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player before turning increasingly towards conducting. His experience from within the orchestra remains fundamental to his approach: thorough preparation, clear communication, active listening and a deep respect for musicians.

"He has a fine ear, solid technique, great discipline and above all: he is a sensitive musician. He is able to rehearse efficiently and has a wide repertoire already."

— Markus Stenz

Hollókői studied violin at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest and continued his studies at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, studying orchestral and opera conducting with Leif Segerstam and Jorma Panula. He subsequently completed the National Master in Orchestral Conducting in Amsterdam and The Hague, working with Jac van Steen, Kenneth Montgomery and Ed Spanjaard.

From 2015 to 2017, he was Assistant Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, working closely with Markus Stenz and collaborating with Bernard Haitink, Edo de Waart, John Adams and Vladimir Jurowski.

In 2017, he worked with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra as assistant to Semyon Bychkov and made his conducting debut at the Concertgebouw with the Philharmonie Südwestfalen.

As a guest conductor, Hollókői has worked with the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, Residentie Orkest, Noord Nederlands Orkest, Dutch Ballet Orchestra, Lahti Symphony Orchestra, Oulu Symphony Orchestra, Kuopio Symphony Orchestra, Joensuu City Orchestra, Sønderjyllands Symphony Orchestra, OSUG Symphony Orchestra in Mexico, Filarmonica Mihail Jora Bacău and Filarmonica Banatul Timișoara, as well as leading Hungarian ensembles including the MÁV Symphony Orchestra, Danubia Orchestra, Győr Philharmonic Orchestra, Szombathely Symphony Orchestra and Miskolc Symphony Orchestra.

His repertoire spans the Baroque and Classical periods through late Romanticism, the music of the 20th century and contemporary works, with a particular affinity for Mozart, Bartók and the Nordic symphonic tradition.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR — KECSKEMÉT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Since 2022, Hollókői has served as Artistic Director of the Kecskemét Symphony Orchestra, where he has established a new artistic direction for the ensemble and significantly expanded its activity.

Under his leadership, the orchestra's concert activity has grown to 18–22 concerts per season, while audience numbers more than doubled by 2024. He has broadened its artistic profile through new thematic series, including a Baroque season-ticket series, an expanded chamber music programme and major symphonic projects.

Among these projects was the Kecskemét premiere of Holst's The Planets. Contemporary Hungarian music has also become more prominent, including the world premiere of Magda Dávid's Percussion Concerto, the Kecskemét premiere of Zoltán Kovács's Bassoon Concerto, and the Kecskemét premiere of György Orbán's Stabat Mater.

A central element of Hollókői's artistic leadership has been strengthening relationships within Kecskemét's musical community, including collaborations with the Kecskeméti Énekes Kör, Ars Nova Choir, Aurin Girls' Choir and Kecskemét Dance Ensemble, and renewed cooperation with the Kodály School through the Young Soloists series.

"Several years of his work have resulted in a significant improvement in the orchestra's performance. He searches for the limits of the ensemble's capabilities, while taking into account the abilities of the different sections and choosing works that are challenging but can be performed at a high level."

— Ákos Dratsay, flutist, Kecskemét Symphony Orchestra

ORCHESTRA & SOLOIST COLLABORATION

At the centre of Hollókői's work is the relationship between conductor, orchestra and soloist. His approach combines detailed preparation with flexibility, allowing a shared musical vision to develop through rehearsal and performance.

His experience as an orchestral musician gives him a particular understanding of the musician's perspective. He seeks to create an environment in which precision and freedom support one another, and where clear expectations are combined with trust.

"He has already precisely and structurally prepared the musicians. This builds the shared artistic vision which Huba develops during the concert with musical passion and inspiring dialogue."

— Suzana Bartal, concert pianist

"He is well prepared, communicates clearly and always treats the musicians with respect, which brings out the best in the orchestra."

— Maano Männi, Concertmaster, Vaasa City Orchestra

OPERA & STAGE

Opera forms an important part of Hollókői's artistic work. His repertoire includes Mozart, Beethoven, Donizetti, Verdi and Puccini, as well as contemporary opera.

He has conducted productions of Carmen, Rigoletto and Fidelio, several Mozart operas and the Finnish premiere of César Cui's children's opera Puss in Boots. He made his stage-directing debut with Donizetti's L'elisir d'amore.

His work in opera draws on both his orchestral experience and his close understanding of singers, stage action and dramatic pacing. It has strengthened his ability to combine musical structure with theatrical development and close collaboration with performers.

VIOLINIST

Hollókői maintains an active career as a violinist alongside his conducting work. He is a founding member and first violinist of the Taiga Quartet in Joensuu. As a violinist, he has performed across Europe and in Japan.

His years as a professional violinist — as soloist, chamber musician, orchestral player and concertmaster — continue to inform his conducting. Rather than approaching the orchestra solely from the podium, he understands its musical processes from within.

This musician's perspective is central to his belief that listening comes before leading.

RECOGNITION

Hollókői was one of the three finalists of the 53rd Besançon International Conducting Competition and won First Prize at the Città di Brescia – Giancarlo Facchinetti International Conducting Competition.

As a violinist, he has received prizes in international competitions. As a conductor, he has received scholarships and support from the Anton Kersjes Fonds and the Finnish Cultural Foundation.

TEACHING & MASTERCLASSBUDAPEST

Hollókői is the founder and artistic organiser of MasterclassBudapest, working closely with Jorma Panula and mentoring young conductors from around the world.

The international masterclass provides a focused and practical environment for developing conducting technique, score study, orchestral communication and professional preparation.

ARTISTIC APPROACH

Across conducting, artistic leadership, opera and chamber music, Hollókői's work is shaped by a consistent set of principles.

Listening creates understanding.
Clarity creates confidence.
Trust creates freedom.

MANAGEMENT — FINLAND

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