



FULL BIOGRAPHY

Huba Hollókői

CONDUCTOR · VIOLINIST · ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Huba Hollókői is a Hungarian conductor and violinist whose work bridges 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 artistic leadership is grounded in listening, clarity and trust.

INTERNATIONAL CAREER

Hollókői studied violin at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest with Vilmos Szabadi, orchestral and opera conducting at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki with Leif Segerstam and Jorma Panula, and completed the National Master in Orchestral Conducting in Amsterdam and The Hague 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, 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 Philharmonie Südwestfalen.

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

Kecskemét Symphony Orchestra

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR · SINCE 2022

Since becoming Artistic Director of the Kecskemét Symphony Orchestra in 2022, Hollókői has developed its artistic profile and increased its activity from 5–7 to 18–22 concerts per season. Audience numbers had more than doubled by 2024.

He has diversified the orchestra's programming through new thematic formats, including a Baroque subscription series and a substantially expanded chamber-music programme. Repertoire has broadened from major symphonic works to projects for new audiences, including the Kecskemét premiere of Holst's *The Planets*.

A central focus has been strengthening ties with Kecskemét's musical community through increased cooperation with Kecskeméti Énekes Kör, Ars Nova Choir, Aurin Girls' Choir and Kecskemét Dance Ensemble, alongside a renewed collaboration with Kodály School through the Young Soloists series, which gives promising young musicians the opportunity to perform with a professional orchestra.

Contemporary Hungarian music has become a more prominent part of the orchestra's programming, with the world premiere of Magda Dávid's *Percussion Concerto* and the Kecskemét premieres of Zoltán Kovács's *Bassoon Concerto* and György Orbán's *Stabat Mater*.

"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

Hollókői places particular importance on the relationship between conductor, orchestra and soloist, combining detailed preparation with the flexibility needed to build a shared interpretation.

"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 & CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Opera is an important part of Hollókői's work. His repertoire includes Mozart, Verdi, Puccini and Beethoven, 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 experience with singers and stage productions has deepened an approach in which musical structure, dramatic pacing and close collaboration with performers form an organic whole.

VIOLINIST, RECOGNITION & TEACHING

Hollókői maintains an active career as a soloist and chamber musician alongside conducting. He is a founding member and first violinist of the Taiga Quartet in Joensuu and has performed across Europe and Japan. His experience as a professional violinist remains fundamental to his conducting and to his understanding of orchestral communication.

Hollókői was one of three finalists in the 53rd Besançon International Conducting Competition and won First Prize at the Città di Brescia-Giancarlo Facchinetti International Conducting Competition. He has received prizes in international violin competitions and conducting support from the Anton Kersjes Fonds and the Finnish Cultural Foundation.

He is the founder and artistic director of MasterclassBudapest, an international conducting masterclass led by Maestro Jorma Panula. Working closely with Panula, Hollókői also teaches conducting and coaches young conductors through intensive work with a professional symphony orchestra. His repertoire ranges from Baroque and Classical to late Romantic, 20th-century and contemporary music, with a particular affinity for Mozart, Bartók and the Nordic symphonic tradition.

Listening creates understanding. · Clarity creates confidence.

Trust creates freedom.

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