



**Philippe Herreweghe**  
**Conductor**

Philippe Herreweghe was born in Ghent and studied at both the university and music conservatory there. During this period he started conducting and founded *Collegium Vocale Gent* in 1970.

Philippe Herreweghe's energetic, authentic and rhetorical approach to baroque music was soon drawing praise. In 1977 he founded the ensemble *La Chapelle Royale* in Paris, with whom he performed music of the French Golden Age. He founded several ensembles with whom he made historically appropriate and well-thought-out interpretations of repertoire stretching from the Renaissance to contemporary music. They include the *Ensemble Vocal Européen*, specialised in Renaissance polyphony, and the *Orchestre des Champs Élysées*, founded in 1991 with the aim of playing pre-Romantic and Romantic repertoire on original instruments. Last season Philippe Herreweghe, together with soloists Magdalena Kožená and Andrew Staples, presented Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* in historic timbres.

Highlights of the 2025/26 season include concert tours with the Collegium Vocale Gent, which will take the ensemble to the major concert halls of South Korea with J.S. Bach's Mass in B minor, as well as concert tours with the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées, with whom he will perform Luigi Cherubini's Requiem at the Bozar in Brussels, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and the Philharmonie Essen, among others. Together with the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées, he will also perform Schubert's 'Unfinished' and Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 on a tour of South America with concerts in Sao Paolo, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro.

In September 2021, Philippe Herreweghe will return to the Musikfest Bremen with concerts together with Orchestre des Champs-Élysées and Collegium Vocale Gent. Having already made his Musikfest debut in 1996 with the choir and orchestra of the Collegium Vocale Gent, he will be honoured in 2021 with the Musikfest Award Bremen for his outstanding artistic work. In addition, Herreweghe was awarded the "Ultima" cultural prize for general cultural merit by the Flemish government in the same year.

Philippe Herreweghe has received numerous awards for his consistent artistic imagination and commitment. In 1990 the European music press named him "*Musical Personality of the Year*". Philippe Herreweghe and Collegium Vocale Gent were appointed "*Cultural Ambassadors of Flanders*" in 1993. A year later he was awarded the Belgian order of *Officier des Arts et Lettres*, and in 1997 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Catholic University of Leuven. In 2003 he received the French title *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur*. In 2010 the city of Leipzig awarded him its *Bach-Medaille* for his great service as a performer of Bach. In 2017 Philippe Herreweghe received an honorary doctorate at Ghent University.