

Gábor Hontvári, an award-winning Hungarian conductor honoured with the Ernst von Schuch Prize in 2018 and the Junior Prima Prize in 2022, is recognised as one of the most promising conductors of his generation. He has won prizes at various international conducting competitions, including the Deutscher Dirigentenpreis and the Sir Georg Solti International Conductors' Competition.

Hontvári served as the First Kapellmeister and Deputy Music Director of Mainfranken Theatre in Würzburg from the 2019/20 season until January 2025. He currently holds the position of Designated Music Director (Interim) for the 2025/26 season at the Theatre Nordhausen and LOH Orchestra Sondershausen.

Over the past few years, Hontvári has conducted many of Germany's leading orchestras, including the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, the WDR Symphony Orchestra, the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne, the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra, the Southwest German Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Folkwang Kammerorchester Essen. He has collaborated with many internationally renowned soloists and performed in some of Europe's most prestigious concert halls. In 2021, he made his debut at the Elbphilharmonie with the Hamburger Camerata, and in 2022, he conducted the Northwest German Philharmonic Orchestra at the Het Concertgebouw. In 2017, he conducted the Bayerische Kammerphilharmonie on their tour across South Korea.

Hontvári is a sought-after guest conductor for Hungary's leading orchestras, including the National Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Győr Philharmonic Orchestra, the Pannon Philharmonic Orchestra, the MÁV Symphony Orchestra, and the Danubia Symphony Orchestra. In 2023, he conducted the Hungarian National Opera on their successful tour to Dubai, where they put on the production of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake ballet. He continues to return regularly as a guest conductor for the Opera's productions.

The young artist has enjoyed significant success in his early years as a conductor. In 2020, he was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Sir Georg Solti International Conductors' Competition in Frankfurt. In 2019, he achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Deutscher Dirigentenpreis Competition in Cologne. In the same year, he went on to receive the Audience Choice Award and 2<sup>nd</sup>-place prize at the Campus Dirigieren Competition for German Universities in Nuremberg. He was winner of the 7th Conducting Competition for the Middle-German Universities in 2015.

He obtained his master's degree and completed postgraduate courses in orchestral conducting at the esteemed Franz Liszt University of Music in Weimar, under the guidance of professor Nicolás Pasquet and Ekhart Wycik. In 2015, he graduated with joint honours bachelor degree in choral and orchestral conducting from the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest.

Since 2016, Hontvári has been a scholarship-holder at the German Music Council's Conductors' Forum (Forum Dirigieren des Deutschen Musikrates). In 2018, he was awarded the Ernst-von-Schuch Prize, which is an annual award given by the Forum to the most promising young conductor in Germany. In 2022, he received a scholarship from the Richard Wagner Verband, attending the Bayreuther Festspiele. That same year, he was awarded the Junior Prima Prize, Hungary's most prestigious award for young artists under the age of 30.

In addition to his extensive symphonic repertoire, Hontvári has a rich and varied opera portfolio. In 2019, he conducted Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Stadttheater Klagenfurt as an assistant conductor to Lorenzo Viotti. He has also conducted a range of productions at the Staatsoperette Dresden, the Musiktheater im Revier, the Theater Kiel, and the Baadisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe. During his tenure as Kapellmeister at the Mainfranken Theatre Würzburg, he not only conducted the regular repertoire pieces but also led numerous successful premieres as Musical Director.