

Belgian conductor Karel Deseure is an artist of natural conducting talent and authority, quickly becoming known for his passionate approach, interpretative flair and artistic versatility.

In recent seasons, Karel was invited by orchestras such as the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, South Netherlands Philharmonic, Belgian National Orchestra, Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn, Flanders Symphony Orchestra, Arnhem Philharmonic l'Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège and Brussels Philharmonic, among others.

Next to the symphonic repertoire, Karel has a great love for opera. After his debut in 2016 with Puccini's *La Bohème* at Opera Zuid (the Netherlands), he was re-invited to conduct *Un Ballo in Maschera* by Verdi and the price-winning production of Bernstein's *A Quiet Place*. At the Dutch National Opera Academy he conducted Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* and the highly acclaimed Dutch première of Mark Adamo's *Little Women*. In the next seasons he will make his debut at the Dutch Reisopera (Humperdinck - *Hänsel und Gretel*) and Opera Ballet Vlaanderen (Weill - *Der Silbersee*) and return to Opera Zuid to conduct Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In 2018 Karel was awarded the Schaunard Award in recognition of his opera work in the Netherlands.

In the current season, highlights were his return to Opera Zuid for the double bill *La Voix Humaine* by Poulenc and *L'Heure espagnole* by Ravel and he jumped-in at short notice at the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic (Dutch première *Piano Concerto* by Ryan Wigglesworth). In February '21, he will make his debut at the National Ballet in Amsterdam. He also returns to the South Netherlands Philharmonic to conduct Bach's *St. John Passion* and he is invited for a new production of Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* at the Dutch National Opera Academy and the Residentie Orchestra.

Originally a flautist, Karel earned his Master's degree at the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp, subsequently studying conducting at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague.

In 2012 he was awarded the prestigious conducting scholarship of the Anton Kersjes Foundation.

Since 2019, Karel is appointed professor of conducting at the Conservatoire of Amsterdam.

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