

# Biography

## Rafaela Seywald

Having grown up in a family where the most natural thing to do while walking in the woods was to sing a canon, Rafaela Seywald always kept her focus on uniting humans to make music together. Trained as a conductor, pianist and singer, she is currently employed as *maestra suggeritrice* (prompter-conductor) and stage music conductor at Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, where she's working with Marco Armiliato, Adam Fischer and Vladimir Jurowski (a.o.).

Rafaela has conducted the Sofia National Philharmonic Orchestra, the orchestra of the opera house Kharkiv as well as Animato Orchestra Munich. She is also a passionate *répétiteur*, chamber musician and Lied-accompanist, playing together with musicians such as her sister Alexandra Maria and the violinist Gerald Schubert (member of the Vienna Philharmonic).

Since 2016 she has produced and conducted her own orchestra and choir projects, including masses, a cappella music, orchestral works and operas. She has performed with ensembles such as the Webern Chamber Choir of mdw (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna) and the Austrian National Youth Choir as well as with the Webern Sinfonietta, Contemporary Ensemble of mdw and the Youth Orchestra Tulln.

Especially interested in opera and interdisciplinary projects, Rafaela worked as *maestra suggeritrice* at Wiener Staatsoper in 2019 and 2021. Together with stage director Adriana Hernandez Flores she developed a film-opera rendition of Purcell's „Dido and Aeneas“, including elements of contemporary dance and electronic music which premiered in June 2021.

Following the completion of her degree in piano pedagogy at University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Rafaela Seywald studied orchestral conducting with Mark Stringer and Sian Edwards and choral conducting with Alois Glaßner. Additionally, she has participated in Masterclasses with Marin Alsop, Mark Heron, Josep Vila y Casañas and Johannes Prinz (conducting), as well as Christopher Hinterhuber and Arbo Valdma (piano). In 2021, she spent an exchange semester at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

Rafaela has won first prizes both as a soloist and as a chamber musician at the Austrian youth music competition „prima la musica“ and in 2020 was awarded the Sylff Fellowship of the Tokyo Foundation for Young Artists for her conducting projects.