Latvian-born Jānis Liepiņš has served as First Kapellmeister of the Nationaltheater Mannheim since the start of the 2019/20 season. He has also been a conductor at the Latvian National Opera and Ballet since September 2014.

Highlights from recent seasons at the Nationaltheater Mannheim include new productions of *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Don Giovanni*, *Die Fledermaus*, *La Forza del Destino*, *Les Huguenots*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Der Schmied von Gent*, *Die Csárdásfürstin*, fragments from Wagner's *Ring* cycle, *Don Pasquale*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Beatrice di Tenda*, and *Orpheus in the Underworld*, as well as revivals of *Il Trovatore*, *Norma*, *Nabucco*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Carmen*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, and *Così fan tutte*. Liepiņš has also made his conducting debut at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf with Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, conducted *Carmen* at Theater Chemnitz, led a Verdi Opera Gala with the Württemberg Philharmonic, and conducted a concert featuring works by Tchaikovsky and Smetana with the Orquesta Clásica Santa Cecilia.

At the Latvian National Opera, Liepiņš' extensive repertoire includes *Carmen*, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Rake's Progress*, *Il Trovatore*, *Le Villi*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *La Rondine*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, *The Rose of Turaida*, and the operetta *Die Fledermaus*. He has also conducted ballets such as *Raymonda*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Scheherazade and Her Tales*, and *La Bayadère*. In Riga, he made his Wagnerian debut with *Der fliegende Holländer* and conducted a gala concert celebrating the centennial of Latvian independence. He gained international recognition in the 2018/19 season with a new production of Montemezzi's *L'Incantesimo* paired with Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, which was broadcast on Arte TV.

Earlier in his career, Liepiņš assisted Daniel Oren for the Latvian National Opera's concert performance of Verdi's *Ernani* and Alexander Vedernikov in a new production of Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* for the Savonlinna Opera Festival.

On the concert stage, he regularly appears with all professional orchestras in Latvia and made his debut with the Russian National Symphony Orchestra in 2017.

Liepiņš has been honored with the Grand Music Award as Latvia's New Artist of the Year in 2013, as well as the Annual Award in Culture. He earned his Bachelor's degree in choral and orchestral conducting from the Latvian Academy of Music, completed his conducting training at the Universität der Künste in Berlin under Professor Lutz Köhler, and received further instruction through masterclasses with Professor Colin Metters.