

PRESS RELEASE

MAESTRO KAZUSHI ONO APPOINTED MUSIC DIRECTOR OF TOKYO METROPOLITAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (TMSO) is pleased to announce that conductor Kazushi Ono will become the TMSO's next Music Director. He will take up the position in April 2015, the year of the 50th anniversary of the orchestra's foundation. The initial agreement is for five years.

Maestro Ono, presently 53, has successively held important positions at renowned opera houses in Europe, most notably Music Director of Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. Currently serving as Principal Conductor of Opéra National de Lyon, as well as continuing to guest conduct major operas and orchestras of the world, he is one of Japan's most high-profile conductors internationally.

Since his first appearance with the TMSO in March 1984, which also marked his professional debut, and having served as Conductor of the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra from 1990 to 1992, Maestro Ono has made regular appearances with the TMSO in recent years and developed a trusting relationship with the orchestra.

Based on the musicality formed under the baton of many conductors over nearly half a century, the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra will continue its fruitful activities under this new partnership with Maestro Kazushi Ono, transmitting the culture from the capital Tokyo to the rest of the world. We hope you will enjoy our future projects.

Artist's photos and profile can be downloaded from URL below.

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DOWNLOAD URL: http://www.tmso.or.jp/j/pr/ono_kazushi/

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Kazushi ONO, conductor



Described as “one of the most fascinating musical minds of our era” and “a phenomenon” (Le Figaro), Kazushi Ono has held the position of Principal Conductor of Opéra National de Lyon since the start of the 2008/09 season and is also Conductor Laureate of Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor of Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini. In June 2013 Kazushi Ono was appointed Music Director designate of Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, a position he will take up in April 2015.

High profile positions have played an important part in Kazushi Ono’s career to date: in 2002 he succeeded Antonio Pappano as Music Director of Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Brussels and it was here that his debut production of Strauss’s Elektra was described by the Süddeutsche Zeitung as “the miracle of Brussels”. Kazushi Ono enjoyed six highly successful seasons at La Monnaie before moving to his current position at Opéra National de Lyon.

During his current tenure in Lyon new, award-winning and critically-acclaimed productions of Prokofiev’s The Gambler, Berg’s Lulu, Stravinsky’s Le Rossignol et autres fables, Verdi’s Luisa Miller, Shostakovich’s The Nose and Wagner’s Parsifal have been staged. During the 2012/13 season, Kazushi Ono has conducted new productions of Verdi’s Macbeth, Beethoven’s Fidelio and a double bill featuring Dallapiccola’s Il prigioniero and Schönberg’s Erwartung. He will also conduct Fidelio in August 2013 when Opéra National de Lyon perform at Edinburgh International Festival.

Kazushi Ono enjoys relationships with many of the world’s top opera houses and has appeared as a guest conductor at Glyndebourne Festival Opera (L’heure espagnole, L’enfant et les sortilèges and Hänsel und Gretel), Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich (Der fliegende Holländer and Hänsel und Gretel), Festival d’Aix-en-Provence

(Le Rossignol), Deutsche Oper, Berlin (Elektra), La Scala, Milan (Macbeth), Metropolitan Opera, New York

(Der fliegende Holländer) and Opéra de Paris (Kol Roger). He has a strong affection for the theatre and works not only with established opera directors such as Luc Bondy, Peter Stein, Laurent Pelly and David McVicar, but has also enjoyed collaborations with artists outside the traditional opera field such as the visual artist Jan Fabre, choreographer Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker and film director François Girard.

Kazushi Ono is a guest conductor with some of the leading international orchestras, including City of Birmingham Symphony, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia.

A Grammy 2012 award winner (‘Diva Divo’: Joyce DiDonato with Orchestre de l’Opéra National de Lyon), Kazushi Ono’s varied catalogue of CD recordings demonstrates his wide repertoire, ranging from Chin (Deutsche Grammophon), Gubaidulina, Britten, Turnage and Rihm to Shostakovich, Mahler, Strauss and Tchaikovsky. Other recent recordings include a 2009 Decca DVD of the acclaimed production of Humperdinck’s Hänsel und Gretel filmed with the London Philharmonic Orchestra at Glyndebourne as well as releases from the Opus Arte label featuring productions of Verdi’s Aida and Stravinsky’s The Rake’s Progress, both with La Monnaie, Brussels. A DVD of the highly successful 2012 production of the Ravel double bill L’heure espagnole and L’enfant et les sortilèges at Glyndebourne is scheduled to be released in September 2013.

www.kazushiono.com

June 2013

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Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra

Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (TMSO) was formed in 1965 as a part of a cultural promotion project of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to mark the Tokyo Olympic Games. Since then, the orchestra has grown to become one of Japan's foremost professional orchestras under the music directorship of conductors such as Tadashi Mori, Akeo Watanabe, Hiroshi Wakasugi and Gary Bertini.

Presently Eliahu Inbal serves as Principal Conductor, Kazuhiro Koizumi as Resident Conductor, and Jakub Hrůša as Principal Guest Conductor. Gary Bertini is Laureate Conductor and Jean Fournet is Permanent Honorary Conductor. TMSO aims to enrich its artistry with the three concertmasters leading the orchestra; Solo Concertmasters as Tatsuya Yabe and Kyoko Shikata, Concertmaster as Tomoshige Yamamoto.

TMSO gives two subscription concert series at Tokyo Bunka Kaikan and Suntory Hall, promenade concerts, "Portrait of Composers" series and other special concerts. In an effort to support Tokyo residents, TMSO organizes joint concerts with teenagers, about 60 school concerts annually and concerts for the handicapped as well as being involved in outreach activities.

Numerous discographies include Works of Mahler conducted by Hiroshi Wakasugi, Gary Bertini and Eliahu Inbal, and of Takemitsu, as well as popular game music "Dragon Quest".

In 1991, TMSO won the Kyoto Music Award. In 2012, TMSO won the Japan's 50th Record Academy Award for Best Symphony Album Shostakovich's Symphony No. 4 conducted by Inbal. They also received the 25th Music Pen Club Awards in both categories of Best Concert Performance and Best Recording Product for the same Shostakovich's performance.

Overseas tours include Europe, Russia, North America and Asia. In May 2013, TMSO went on a tour in the Czech Republic and Slovakia where they were invited to appear in the Prague Spring Festival and others as the "Music Ambassador of Capital Tokyo".

Kazushi Ono is appointed Music Director designate of TMSO, taking up the position in April 2015.

<http://www.tmso.or.jp/>

Main conductors of TMSO (as of June 2013)

Heinz HOFMANN	Permanent Conductor 1965.4-67.3
MORI Tadashi	Music Director & Permanent Conductor 1967.4-72.3
WATANABE Akeo	Music Director & Permanent Conductor 1972.4-78.3 Honorary Conductor 1978.12-1990.6
Moshe ATZMON	Music Adviser & Principal Conductor 1978.4-83.3
KOBAYASHI Kenichiro	Resident Conductor 1978.4-83.3
Zděnek KOŠLER	Principal Guest Conductor 1978.4-83.3 / Regular Guest Conductor 1983.4-86.3
Peter MAAG	Regular Guest Conductor 1983.4-86.3
Jean FOURNET	Regular Guest Conductor 1983.4-86.3 / Honorary Conductor 1989.12-2008.10 Permanent Honorary Conductor 2008.11-
WAKASUGI Hiroshi	Music Director 1986.4-95.3 / Principal Conductor 1987.4-95.3
KOIZUMI Kazuhiro	Conductor 1986.4-90.3 / Principal Conductor 1995.4-98.3 Principal Guest Conductor 1998.4-2008.3 / Resident Conductor 2008.4-
ONO Kazushi	Conductor 1990.4-92.3 / Music Director designate (2015.4-)
Eliahu INBAL	Special Guest Conductor 1995.4-2000.3 / Principal Conductor 2008.4-
Gary BERTINI	Music Director 1998.4-2005.3 / Laureate Conductor 2005.4-
James DePREIST	Permanent Conductor 2005.4-2008.3
Jakub HRŮŠA	Principal Guest Conductor 2010.4-