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ENSEMBLE WIEN KLANG

<< PRESS RELEASE >>

Hideaki Hirai Named Principal Guest Conductor of The Ensemble Wien Klang

We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Japanese conductor, HIDEAKI HIRAI, as Principal Guest Conductor of The Ensemble Wien Klang, beginning in 2017–18 season. His term will be five years until July, 2022.

Hideaki Hirai wurde als neuer Erster Gastdirigent des Ensemble Wien Klang bestätigt.

Wir sind stolz den jungen und sehr talentierten japanischen Dirigenten HIDEAKI HIRAI als unseren Ersten Gast Dirigenten vorzustellen. Mit Beginn der Saison 2017/18 wird er dieses Amt mindestens fünf Jahre bis Juli 2022 bekleiden. Wir freuen uns auf eine aufregende und produktive Zusammenarbeit.



<BIOGRAPHY>

HIDEAKI HIRAI is one of the most gifted young conductors from Japan. In 2013, “Maestro Hirai made a remarkable Carnegie Hall debut” (The New York Culture Examiner) with rave reviews such as “especially impressive, dynamic, confident, justly deserving of the standing ovation” (The New York Concert Review), conducting from the memory the Beethoven 9th Symphony with New York Festival Orchestra (www.NYFO.org), which resulted in appointing him Music Director and Conductor, starting from 2014/15 season. Since 1998, as a Co-founder, he frequently conducts the Czech Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, now serving as Principal Guest Conductor.

Recent career highlights include his sensational debut at the Wiener Staatsoper during the 2012/13 season with an immediate return in the following year, a successful debut in Salzburg for the Austrian premiere of his own acclaimed opera, “Princess from the Moon”, which also received rave reviews in Canberra, Los Angeles, Prague and many cities in Japan. His second and third operas, "True Love of Komachi" and "The White Fox", have been equally successful. In 2017, he made his debut at Konzerthaus in Vienna with Ensemble Wien Klang (www.ensemblewienklang.at/).

In 1997 he was the first prize-winner of the Sixth International Conducting Competition in Hradec Kralove (Czech Republic). In 2001 Mr. Hirai was chosen by Lorin Maazel as one of the ten promising conductors in Asia. Maestro Hirai has conducted numerous orchestras worldwide, including the Danish National Radio Symphony, Janacek Philharmonic, Prague Radio Symphony, Tokyo Philharmonic as well as such festivals as Martinu Festival, the Martha Argerich Music Festival in Beppu, Japan among many others.

Acknowledged as opera conductor, Maestro Hirai has been a frequent guest with the prestigious New National Theatre, Tokyo. Following his successful debut with *Mitridate* and *Lucio Silla* (Mozart) in November 2003, Maestro Hirai was immediately offered re-engagements with *Marriage of Figaro* in April 2005 and with *Serse* (Handel) in January 2006. His recent opera performances include productions of *La Boheme*, *Carmen*, *Madame Butterfly*, and *La Traviata*.

As a member of a celebrated musical family in Japan, he studied piano, violin and composition with his grandfather, renowned composer Kozaburo Hirai, who studied under Mahler’s celebrated disciple, Klaus Pringsheim, and cello with his father Takeichiro Hirai (www.takeichiro-hirai.com), noted cellist whom Pablo Casals designated as his successor.

He graduated from the University of Rochester (New York) with a Bachelor’s degree in political science, where he studied conducting under David Efron at the Eastman School of Music. He completed his Master’s degree in conducting at the Peabody Conservatory of the John’s Hopkins University under Frederik Prausnitz, followed by further studies under Otakar Trhlik at the Janacek Academy of Music (Czech Republic) and his mentor Sir Colin Davis in London.

[07/2017]

<< Official Website >>: <https://www.hideaki-hirai.com>