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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, who has “a talent deeply ingrained in his genes” (The Den), is one of the most gifted young conductors from Japan. He belongs to the Hirai family, famous in the classical music field in 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** (NYFO). Upon a great success, NYFO has appointed him **Music Director and Conductor**, starting from 2014/15 season.

In May, 2017, Maestro Hirai made a highly praised debut at prestigious **Wiener Konzerthaus** with **Ensemble Wien Klang**, which unanimously appointed him **Principal Guest Conductor**, starting from 2017-18 season. In October, he had such a rare honor to conduct his own “**Ave Maria**” in the official mass at **St. Peter’s Basilica** as well as to dedicate it to **Pope Francis and the Vatican City**. Also, he made his debut in the season inaugural concert of **Roma Tre Orchestra at Palladium Theatre in Rome**. Upon this success, Maestro Hirai will make his debut at the prestigious **Rossini Theatre** (Pesaro) with **Rossini Symphony Orchestra** in May, 2019. Since 1998, as a Co-founder, he frequently conducts the **Czech Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra**, now serving as **Principal Guest Conductor**.

Highlights in the 2012/13 season include his sensational debut at the **Wiener Staatsoper**, immediately followed by a successful return during 2013/14 season, and his successful debut in **Salzburg** for the Austrian premiere of **his own acclaimed opera, “Princess from the Moon”**, which has been performed more than 30 times in such cities as Canberra, Prague, Anif, Los Angeles and many cities in Japan. Besides, Maestro Hirai has written two other operas: “**True Love of Komachi**” and “**The White Fox**” which have also become very popular to enjoy many performances in Japan. 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.

He has conducted many leading orchestras including the **Cadaques Chamber Orchestra, Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Croatian Radio-TV Symphony Orchestra, Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Wien Klang, Finnish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Janacek Philharmonic, Karlsbad Symphony Orchestra, Moravian Philharmonic, Pleven Philharmonic, Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, Roma Tre Orchestra, Silesian Philharmonic, Sofia Sinfonietta** and most of the major orchestras in Japan such as **New Japan Philharmonic, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, and Tokyo Symphony Orchestra** as well as appeared at such festivals as **Martinu Festival, Young Prague Music Festival** (Czech Rep.), **Japan Festival** (U.S.A.) and **Martha Argerich Music Festival** (Beppu, Japan).

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**.

Mr. Hirai, born into a celebrated musical family, studied piano, violin and composition with his grandfather, eminent composer Kozaburo Hirai and cello with his father, Takeichiro Hirai (www.takeichiro-hirai.com), noted cellist whom Pablo Casals designated as his successor. Hideaki Hirai graduated from the University of Rochester (New York) with a Bachelor’s degree in political science, where he studied conducting under David Effron 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.

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