



Kahchun Wong Chief Conductor

Praised by Musical America for the “depth and sincerity of his musicality”, the Singaporean conductor Kahchun Wong is one of the most exciting and innovative conductors of his generation. He first came to international attention as the winner of the Gustav Mahler Competition in 2016, following in the footsteps of Gustavo Dudamel, who immediately invited him to the Los Angeles Philharmonic as a Conducting Fellow in the 2016-17 season. Following a last-minute acclaimed debut with the Nuremberg Symphony, he was swiftly appointed as its next Chief Conductor, from the 2018-19 season. Aside from often sold-out subscription concerts in the Meistersingerhalle, he leads his orchestra frequently on tour to major cities like Milan, Beijing and Shanghai, with an upcoming guest appearance at the Musikverein in Vienna scheduled for February 2022. At the end of the 2021/22 season, Kahchun Wong will then end his tenure as chief conductor of the nuremberg symphony orchestra by mutual agreement and intensify his work as Principal Guest Conductor of the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra.

Wong has guest conducted some of the most distinguished orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Czech Philharmonic, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken and Konzerthausorchester Berlin. Highlights in 2021/2022 include return engagements with the Bamberg Symphony, Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, Staatskapelle Weimar, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Orquesta de Valencia, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony, Tokyo Symphony and Singapore Symphony, in addition to debuts with the Detroit Symphony, Dresden Philharmonic and National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA) Orchestra in Beijing.

A protégé of the late Kurt Masur, Wong had the privilege of sharing the podium with him on multiple occasions in his final years. He has also assisted Esa-Pekka Salonen at the Philharmonia Orchestra, Valery Gergiev and Yannick Nézet-Séguin with the Rotterdam Philharmonic, Gustavo Dudamel at the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Ivan Fischer at the Budapest Festival Orchestra.

Coming from Southeast Asia, where interest in classical music is beginning to gain momentum among the younger generation, Wong is a keen believer of its ability to inspire and uplift. In 2016, he co-founded Project Infinitude with Marina Mahler, the granddaughter of Gustav Mahler. Over the next few years, the educational scheme has supported more than 100 children under 10 years old from under-resourced communities in Singapore. In 2019, together with BR-Klassik and Stadtparkasse Nürnberg, he conceptualised and led PACHELBEL.VIER.NULL, a collaborative digital project which raised donations for Sternstunden e.V., a non-profit association for children in Germany. During the 2020 pandemic, he convened over 1000 international musicians for a digital sing-along of Beethoven's Ode to Joy for ChildAid, an annual charity event in Singapore which raised close to 2 million dollars for the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund and the Business Times Budding Artists Fund.

In December 2019, Wong became the first artist from Singapore to be conferred the Order of Merit by the Federal President of Germany for his dedicated service and outstanding achievements in Singaporean-German cultural relations and the advancement of German music culture abroad.

January 2022, 498 words