

PRESS KIT

The Konzerthausorchester Berlin on tour in Japan

09.05. to 14.05.2023

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The Konzerthausorchester Berlin in Japan

Accompanied by principal conductor Christoph Eschenbach, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin will be in Japan from 9 to 14 May. The orchestra's upcoming performances in Tokyo, which will include their debut at the prestigious Suntory Hall, as well as concerts in Yokohama, Fukuoka, and Nagoya, will take the ensemble, at home on Berlin's historic Gendarmenmarkt square, to some of the most important concert halls throughout Japan.

The programme for Christoph Eschenbach's farewell tour as principal conductor of the Konzerthausorchester Berlin includes all four symphonies by Johannes Brahms, with a CD having been released in 2021. Midori, a long-time musical companion of Eschenbach's and a violinist of worldwide renown, will play the solo part in Robert Schumann's Violin Concerto. For Antonín Dvořák's Cello Concerto, the young Japanese cellist Haruma Sato, who won the International ARD Music Competition in Munich in 2019, has been confirmed as soloist. As a special greeting from Gendarmenmarkt, where Carl Maria von Weber's opera "Der Freischütz" premiered in 1821, nearly all of the concerts will begin with the Freischütz Overture.

Christoph Eschenbach on his relationship with Japan and Japanese audiences, which has deepened over the span of decades:

"It is always a very special experience and a great pleasure to play with an orchestra in Japan. We all know the outward signs of enthusiasm there: the auditorium is always full. And after every concert, countless individuals gather in lengthy queues, holding albums in hopes of receiving autographs and expressing their gratitude. In Japan, there really is an enormous understanding of music that is rooted in a tendency towards inwardness. Only those who possess this inclination can truly comprehend the very essence of music. I was in Japan for the first time in 1969 as a pianist. I fell in love with the country, literally absorbed the culture and have identified with it ever since."

Concert programme

Tuesday, 09.05.2023

7:00 p.m. · Tokyo Opera City Concert Hall

KONZERTHAUSORCHESTER BERLIN

CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH *Conductor*

HARUMA SATO *Violoncello*

Carl Maria von Weber Overture to the opera "Der Freischütz"

Antonín Dvořák Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra in B minor op. 104

Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 2 in D major op. 73



Photo: Marco Borggreve

Wednesday, 10.05.2023

7:00 p.m. · Yokohama Minatomirai Hall

KONZERTHAUSORCHESTER BERLIN

CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH *Conductor*

Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 3 in F major op. 90

Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 1 in C minor op. 68

Thursday, 11.05.2023

7:00 p.m. · Suntory Hall

KONZERTHAUSORCHESTER BERLIN

CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH *Conductor*

MIDORI *Violin*

Carl Maria von Weber Overture to the opera "Der Freischütz"

Robert Schumann Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D minor

Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 4 in E minor op. 98

Saturday, 13.05.2023

5:00 p.m. · Acros Fukuoka Symphony Hall

KONZERTHAUSORCHESTER BERLIN

CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH *Conductor*

MIDORI *Violin*

Carl Maria von Weber Overture to the opera "Der Freischütz"

Robert Schumann Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D minor

Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 1 in C minor op. 68

Sunday, 14.05.2023

3:00 p.m. · Nagoya Aichi Prefectural Arts Theatre

KONZERTHAUSORCHESTER BERLIN

CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH *Conductor*

MIDORI *Violin*

Carl Maria von Weber Overture to the opera "Der Freischütz"

Robert Schumann Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D minor

Johannes Brahms Symphony No. 4 in E minor op. 98

The Konzerthausorchester Berlin

The Konzerthausorchester Berlin has been directed by principal conductor Christoph Eschenbach since the 2019/20 season. His predecessor, Iván Fischer, is associated with the orchestra as honorary conductor, and Juraj Valčuha has regularly given fresh impetus as principal guest conductor since 2017. Joana Mallwitz will take over as principal conductor from the 2023/24 season.

Founded in 1952 as the Berliner Sinfonie-Orchester (BSO), today's Konzerthausorchester Berlin gained its decisive profile and international recognition under principal conductor Kurt Sanderling from 1960 to 1977. It received its own venue in 1984 with the reopening of the restored Schauspielhaus on Gendarmenmarkt. Ten years later, the BSO became the official house orchestra of the renamed Konzerthaus Berlin, and since 2006 has borne its current name. It performs more than 100 concerts here each season. It also regularly tours and performs at festivals in Germany and abroad. At the Kurt Sanderling Academy, founded in 2010, the musicians train highly gifted young orchestral talent.

Bringing music performed at the highest level to a broad audience is one of the orchestra's central concerns. To this end, the musicians are involved in "Mittendrin – Right in the Middle", with the audience seated next to orchestra members in concerts, in online clip series such as the multi-award-winning #klangberlins and in "Spielzeit" streams on the web platform "twitch". The orchestra's deep connection to Berlin is reflected in its diverse educational and social commitments with various partners in the city.

The Konzerthaus Berlin

Music moves people and brings them together – the Konzerthaus Berlin is fully convinced of this. Its fundamental objective is to provide a broad audience, regardless of their prior education or social background, with the opportunity to discover classical music and pursue their long-standing passion.

This includes large symphony concerts of the highest standard performed by the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, as well as various innovative formats. The Konzerthaus Berlin targets a wide range of audiences with festival tributes to important personalities of the music world as well as experimental performances.

The Konzerthaus Berlin's self-image also includes networking and regular collaborations with artists and ensembles of various styles from the diverse local independent scene.

The Konzerthaus Berlin recognizes the immense potential of digital cultural education and the accessibility it provides through new media. In recent years, the Konzerthaus Berlin has been augmenting its traditional music programming with digital offerings that are geared towards immersion, interaction and participation. Through its digital initiatives, the Konzerthaus Berlin provides a range of user-friendly opportunities to prepare audiences for or follow up on concert visits, and to engage them in a meaningful dialogue with fellow music enthusiasts.

Principal conductor Christoph Eschenbach

Christoph Eschenbach (* 1940 in Breslau) began his international career as a pianist. Since 1972, he has also conducted some of the world's most renowned orchestras, including the Vienna Philharmonic, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and Orchestre de Paris. He is a regular guest at the most important opera venues (e.g. Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Bayreuth Festival, Metropolitan Opera and Opéra Bastille), at the Salzburg Festival and at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, where he directs the Festival Orchestra. His versatility and innovative drive have earned him global recognition as a conductor, artistic partner and enthusiastic promoter of young talent.

Christoph Eschenbach has served as Music and Artistic Director of the Tonhalle Society Zurich and as Music Director of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, NDR Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Philadelphia Orchestra, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and National Symphony Orchestra in Washington. He has been principal conductor of the Konzerthausorchester Berlin since the 2019/20 season. Christoph Eschenbach's last season as principal conductor of the Konzerthausorchester in 2022/2023 will be a meditation on the theme of farewell. The opening concert on 26/27 August 2022 with Mahler's Symphony No. 5 and Richard Strauss' "Four Last Songs" sung by Renée Fleming will be followed up in June 2023 with a finale featuring Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony" and Mozart's Requiem.

The artist, who has received many music awards for his extensive recordings, is also a Knight of the "Légion d'Honneur", Officer of the French Order of National Merit, Commander of the "Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" and holder of the Federal Cross of Merit. Eschenbach received the Leonard Bernstein Award and was honoured with the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize in 2015 as pianist and conductor.

Brahms – The symphonies (CD box)

Together with the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, principal conductor Christoph Eschenbach released a complete recording of Johannes Brahms' four symphonies on the music label Berlin Classics in 2021. All four works will be on the programme on different evenings during the tour of Japan.

According to Christoph Eschenbach, he has found an ideal dialogue partner for his love of Johannes Brahms in the Konzerthausorchester Berlin: "The Konzerthausorchester has fabulous soloists, especially in the woodwind and horn sections. And the string sound is very 'Brahmsian'. We very quickly agreed on how Brahms should sound."

The CD box is available in the online shop of the Konzerthaus Berlin: <https://www.konzerthaus.de/de/shop-cd-und-dvd>

Biography of Midori

Midori was born in 1971 in Osaka and began violin lessons at an early age with her mother, Setsu Goto. In 1982, conductor Zubin Mehta invited the then 11-year-old to perform with the New York Philharmonic at the orchestra's annual New Year's Eve concert. This season Midori celebrates her 40th stage anniversary. This includes a new recording of the complete Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin with pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet and a solo recital tour with concerts at Carnegie Hall, in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Dresden, Bonn and Ludwigsburg.

Midori has founded several non-profit organisations such as "Midori & Friends" and "Music Sharing". Acknowledging her contributions as an artist and humanitarian, she has been appointed as a United Nations Messenger of Peace and has received numerous prestigious awards.

Midori holds the Dorothy Richard Starling Chair in Violin Studies at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and is a Distinguished Visiting Artist at the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University. She plays an "ex-Huberman" Guarnerius del Gesù instrument from 1734, and her four bows come from the houses of Dominique Peccatte, François Peccatte and Paul Siefried.

Biography of Haruma Sato

Haruma Sato was born in Aichi, Japan in 1998. In 2019 he won first prize at the 68th ARD Music Competition in Munich and gained international attention. He is also a winner of the 83rd Music Competition of Japan, the 13th Domenico Gabrielli Competition in Berlin and the 11th Witold Lutosławski International Cello Competition.

Haruma Sato performs as a soloist and chamber musician with renowned orchestras and ensembles in numerous European concert halls as well as in Japan.

His first CD, "The Senses", with recordings of Brahms was released by Deutsche Grammophon in 2020. His third CD will be released in April this year. Sato studies at the Berlin University of the Arts with Professor J. P. Maintz.