

## GÁBOR KÁLI – CONDUCTOR



The Hungarian conductor Gábor Káli ended the 17/18 season on a high note: after winning the first prize and the orchestra prize at the Hong Kong International Conducting Competition in early 2018, in August 2018 he won the prestigious Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award. In summer 2019 he will therefore return to Salzburg Festival and conduct the ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna in concert as well as in a CD production.

The season 18/19 saw Gábor Káli conducting Verdi's *Rigoletto* at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz in Munich and in the Opera House of Budapest. In November he was with the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra in Taipei and Taichung followed by a return to the Old Buda Symphony Orchestra at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest. In late March-early April he created sensation when at Iván Fischer's invitation he replaced the ailing music director at a major European-US tour of the brilliant Budapest Festival Orchestra earning in Budapest, Hamburg, Paris and Luxembourg excellent reviews and standing ovations. Later in the running season he will conduct the Cologne Chamber Orchestra in Portugal and will be touring with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra through their homeland.

In 2019/20 he will lead in the Opera House of Graz a new production of Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers* and conduct at Christian Thielemann's invitation a series of performances of *The Magic Flute* in the Semperoper in Dresden. He will be also guest of four different symphony orchestras in Hungary and conduct in Finland and Estonia.

He has been enjoying a close relationship with the Hungarian State Opera in his hometown Budapest since 2015 where he conducted a new production of *Don Pasquale* in 2016 and the revival of Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* in 2017. In December 2019 Gábor Káli returned there for a run of *The Magic Flute* and will conduct the same work in November 2019 in six performances.

Gábor Káli has worked, among others, with the Südwestdeutsche Philharmonie Konstanz, the Staatsorchester Darmstadt, the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, the Kodály Philharmony, the Philharmony Bohuslav Martinů and the Sonarten Ensemble for contemporary music in Barcelona.

He joined the Staatstheater in Nürnberg as Kapellmeister and Assistant to the Generalmusikdirektor Marcus Bosch before taking the post of First Kapellmeister and Deputy Music Director in 2015. Productions he conducted there include *Wozzeck*, *La Bohème*, Verdi's *Attila*, *From the House of the Dead*, *Ballo in Maschera*, *Rigoletto*, *Les pêcheurs de perles*, *Arabella* and *Otello*.

Before joining the house in Nürnberg he conducted *The Barber of Seville* in Münster and *Orpheus* at the Staatstheater Darmstadt as well as being a house conductor at the Theater in Aachen, where he was in charge of the production of Hans Werner Henze's children's opera *Pollicino* with 120 young participants as well as working with the Youth Orchestra Aachen.

Gábor Káli started to study piano and conducting at the Franz Liszt Music Academy in Budapest and moved to Berlin from 2004 to 2009 to continue his conducting studies with Prof. Lutz Köhler at the Universität der Künste. He joined the Dirigentenforum of the Deutsche Musikrat where he attended masterclasses of Kurt Masur, Colin Metters and Sian Edwards. He also took part in courses with Péter Eötvös, Bernhard Haitink, David Zinman and the Tonhalle Orchester Zurich.

*(2019 April)*