

philharmonia orchestra

KENT NAGANO **Conductor**

Music Director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and Bayerische Staatsoper, Kent Nagano is renowned for interpretations of clarity, elegance and deep intelligence. He is equally at home in music of the classical, romantic and contemporary eras, introducing concert and opera audiences throughout the world to new and rediscovered music and offering fresh insights into established repertoire.

Born in California, he maintains close connections with his home state and became Music Director of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra in 1978. He played a key role in the world premiere of Messiaen's opera *Saint François d'Assise* at the request of the composer, who became a mentor and bequeathed his piano to the conductor.

Nagano was Music Director of both Opéra National de Lyon (1988-1998) and the Hallé Orchestra (1991-2000) and between 2000 – 2006 he was Music Director of Los Angeles Opera and the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin. At the end of his tenure with the DSO he was given the title Honorary Conductor by members of the orchestra, only the second recipient of this honour in their 60-year history.

In his first season for Bayerische Staatsoper Nagano commissioned new operas by Wolfgang Rihm (*Das Gehege*) and Unsuk Chin (*Alice in Wonderland*) and for Montreal Symphony he initiated the "OSM International Composition Prize". He has given the World premieres of Bernstein's *A White House Cantata* and operas by Peter Eötvös (*Three Sisters*), John Adams (*The Death of Klinghoffer* and *El Niño*) and Saariaho's *L'amour de loin* at the Salzburg Festival.

As a much sought after guest conductor he has worked with most of the world's finest orchestras including the Vienna, Berlin and New York Philharmonics, the Chicago Symphony and the Dresden Staatskapelle and at some of the major opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera, Opéra National de Paris and the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin.

He has recorded for Erato, Teldec, Pentatone and Deutsche Grammophon as well as Harmonia Mundi, winning Grammy awards for his recordings of Busoni's *Doktor Faust* with Opéra National de Lyon, and *Peter and the Wolf* with the Russian National Orchestra. He has recently begun an ongoing relationship with Sony BMG Masterworks.