

Press release
Paris, April 17, 2008



**Kurt Masur presents
the young Swiss conductor, Simon Gaudenz
at the concert on Thursday, April 24, 2008.
Simon Gaudenz will conduct soprano Amel Brahim-Djelloul
and the Orchestre National de France
in the “The Shadows of Time” by Henri Dutilleux**

Maestro Kurt Masur shall introduce and share the podium with young conducting talent, Simon Gaudenz in his debut concert with the Orchestre National de France on April 24, 2008 at the Theatre des Champs-Elysees in Paris. Kurt Masur first discovered Simon Gaudenz in 2006 in Bonn, at a seminar which Masur was leading on the art of conducting Beethoven. With the consent of composer Henri Dutilleux, Gaudenz will conduct his striking piece contemplating the sorrows and evils of time passing, “The Shadows of Time”. Kurt Masur will conduct the second half of the program with one of his trademark works, the Fifth Symphony by Tchaikovsky, recorded and released on CD with the Orchestre National de France under his direction in 2005 on the Naïve label.

SIMON GAUDENZ first attracted international attention in 2006 when he won the "International Conducting Competition Gennadi Rozhdestvensky" in Sofia. He began his conducting career in 2000 becoming Artistic Director of the Basel-based ensemble *Camerata Variabile*, with whom he performed at various European festivals such as the Berliner Festspiele and the European Music Month 2001.

Since 2004, Simon Gaudenz is Music Director of the prestigious Collegium Musicum in Basel, only the second conductor to be given this position in the Swiss Orchestra's 50 year history. Simon made his opera début in 2003 with Honegger's "Les Aventures du Roi Pausole". Subsequently, he was engaged to conduct a new production of Strauss' "Night in Venice" in Switzerland, and in 2006 Verdi's "La Traviata" at the Altenburg-Gera Opera House in Germany. He made his French debut in the summer of 2005 at the Festival de Gensac near Bordeaux, France.

Highlights of his 2008/2009 season include performances with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks Munich, the Deutsches Sinfonieorchester Berlin, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, the Orchestre National de Lyon as well as the Stuttgart Philharmonic and the Frankfurt State Orchestra.

Known for his extensive classical, romantic and contemporary repertoire, Simon Gaudenz is frequently invited to guest conduct the leading European orchestras, and has worked to date with the Tonhalle Orchestra Zürich, the Musikkollegium Winterthur, the Zürich New Music Ensemble, the St. Petersburg State Hermitage Orchestra, the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn, the Bremen Philharmonic, the Württemberg Philharmonic, the Staatsorchester Wiesbaden, the North German Philharmonic as well as the Neubrandenburg Philharmonic, the Mainz State Philharmonic, the Nürnberg Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Mozarteum Salzburg. He has collaborated with such renowned artists as Arabella Steinbacher, Raphaël Oleg, Sasha Rozhdestvensky, Wen-Sinn Yang, Bruno Schneider, Gitti Pirner and Anna Gourari among others.

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In 2005 he was awarded a stipend from the “Akademie Musiktheater Heute” sponsored by the Deutsche Bank and in 2004 he has been accepted into the highly-competitive conductor training program sponsored by the German National Music Council (Dirigentenforum Deutscher Musikrat). Simon Gaudenz is the recipient of the Aargauer Kuratorium Artist Award in Switzerland.

Simon Gaudenz was born in Basel, Switzerland. He first studied the clarinet and graduated with a soloist diploma in clarinet performance. In addition, he also studied composition with Peter Benary and Dieter Ammann. His conducting training he received in Germany at the Staatliche Musikhochschule Freiburg and at the Mozarteum Salzburg, where he studied with Dennis Russell Davies, Jorge Rotter and Scott Sandmeier. During the course of his studies he was selected on numerous occasions to participate in master classes and to perform with orchestras in Stuttgart, Mannheim, Pforzheim and Reutlingen. He completed his studies in masterclasses with Kurt Masur, Reinhard Goebel and Wolf-Dieter Hauschild. To further his studies outside of Germany, Simon Gaudenz has participated in the Pierre Monteux School in Maine (USA), and was invited by David Zinman to participate in the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival where he also worked with David Robertson, Julius Rudel, Michael Stern, Sergiu Comissiona, Arnold Östman and pianist Leon Fleisher. In addition, he was Mario Venzago’s assistant with the Malmö Symphony Orchestra (Sweden), and prepared the *Sacre du Printemps* by Stravinsky in Freiburg.

Simon Gaudenz currently lives in Munich.