

Press information

13th June 2023

Fabien Gabel becomes Music Director of the Tonkünstler Orchestra

Dynamic style and new programmatic focus: French conductor takes up his post in summer 2025

In the **25–26 concert season Fabien Gabel** takes up the position of **Music Director** of the **Tonkünstler Orchestra**. He replaces **Yutaka Sado**, who has led the orchestra since 2015 and will continue his close relationship with it. Gabel signed his contract, with a term initially set to last four years, during a press conference on Tuesday, 13 June 2023 in the Palais Niederösterreich in Vienna.

Fabien Gabel is celebrated for his dynamic style and his meticulous approach to the score and is known for his eclectic repertoire choices that include not only the core symphonic repertoire and New Music but also works by less famous composers of the 19th and 20th centuries. From 2012 to 2021 he was Music Director of the Orchestre symphonique de Québec. He regularly conducts top international orchestras, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre de Paris, the Oslo and Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestras, the Cleveland and Minnesota Orchestras, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and the City of Birmingham Orchestra.

In his **concert programmes** with the Tonkünstler Orchestra, Fabien Gabel will not only cover the core repertoire of Classicism and Romanticism but also place a significant focus on the **Second Viennese School** around Arnold Schoenberg, Anton Webern and Alban Berg. He also wants to collaborate with the Tonkünstler Orchestra in devoting special attention to the music of composers such as Franz Schreker, Alexander Zemlinsky, Erich Wolfgang Korngold and Joseph Marx, who worked on the frontier between late Romanticism and Modernism and whose work is closely connected with Vienna. Another focus will be on the works of French composers starting with Hector Berlioz, Maurice Ravel and Claude Debussy and ranging to the classic French modernists around Darius Milhaud and Francis Poulenc. The Tonkünstler's Music Director Designate wants to devote special attention to the **links between Vienna and France** in the first half of the 20th century. *«Austrian music culture, its traditions and its avant-garde, were an essential influence on me as a young trumpeter and are a great source of inspiration for me in my work as a conductor»*, says Gabel.

Fabien Gabel takes up his post in summer 2025. He will direct **five symphonic subscription programmes per season** with the Tonkünstler Orchestra, in addition to the subscription concerts in **Vienna** and **Lower Austria** and some additional special concert formats. He will also play an active role in the Tonkünstler's intensive **music education work** and lead the orchestra on **tours**.

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The **choice of Fabien Gabel** as Yutaka Sado's successor is the outcome of a selection procedure that has taken several years and was carried out in close collaboration with the **committees within the orchestra**. *«In securing the services of Fabien Gabel we have gained a Music Director who will ensure the further artistic development of the Tonkünstler Orchestra. With him we will not only uphold our standard repertoire but also develop new focuses in our programming»*, says Frank Druschel, Executive Director of the Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich.

Born in Paris in 1975, Gabel has for many years been a regular visitor to the Tonkünstler Orchestra, most recently taking to the orchestra's lectern in April 2023 at the **Easter Concert** in **Grafenegg** with Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio «St. Paul». He made his **Tonkünstler debut** and his Musikverein Wien and Festspielhaus St. Pölten debuts in April 2019 with works including Erich Wolfgang Korngold's Sinfonietta. *«That was the first time I felt that the chemistry was right. The orchestra gave me exactly the sound I wanted to have for this piece»*, he remembers. Gabel will start making repeated appearances as Music Director Designate with the Tonkünstler Orchestra in the **23–24 concert season**, for example in an attractive **subscription programme** with four concert dates in Vienna and Lower Austria, and will preside over the **Musical Programme Presentation** for the **24–25 season** in **April 2024**. In August 2024 he will again direct a festival concert in Grafenegg, and he will return there in **summer 2025** to conduct the **Midsummer Night's Gala** and the **Festival Opening**.

Further information tonkuenstler.at | tonkuenstler.at

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