

One full house after another: strong growth in Tonkunstler subscriptions

24–25 concert season sees change at the top: The Tonkunstler Orchestra bids farewell to Yutaka Sado with Mahler's Eighth and many other masterpieces

Over the past one and a half years, a sold-out Great Hall in the **Musikverein Wien** has become a trademark of the **subscription concerts** with the **Tonkunstler Orchestra**. Right on time for the **75th anniversary** of its **Sunday Afternoon concerts** in the Musikverein, which remain the Tonkunstler's most successful programme series, the orchestra is delighted to have **two thirds more subscribers** than in the same period last year. For the Tonkunstler Orchestra, which offers the most affordable orchestral programme in the **Musikverein Wien**, this currently amounts to almost **5,000 subscriptions** in the world-famous concert hall. The subscriptions featuring the **classical orchestral repertoire** – including those offered since the simplified subscription structure for the symphonic series was introduced last year – have proven especially successful, which is reflected by an increase of around **80 per cent**. «We're delighted to see so many new subscribers,» says Tonkunstler Executive Director Frank Druschel. «For our audience this also means: If you want to hear the Tonkunstler Orchestra in the Musikverein, and maybe especially if you value the best, fixed seats, you simply have to get a subscription.»

The **24–25 concert season** will be defined by the **changeover of Music Directors: Yutaka Sado** bids farewell to the Tonkunstler Orchestra in June 2025 after almost 300 concerts. **Gustav Mahler's** Eighth Symphony, the «Symphony of a Thousand», concludes his decade-long tenure as well as the cycle of Mahler's symphonic work that was a programming focus over recent years. In his valedictory season, Yutaka Sado conducts **20 performances in Vienna and Lower Austria**, with additional **guest concerts** further afield, including London, Innsbruck and Maribor, as well as a **Japan tour** in May 2025.

For the **24–25 season** in the **Musikverein Wien**, **twelve symphonic subscription programmes** are again planned – beginning with the Austrian premiere of **Georg Friedrich Haas's** new orchestral piece, «I don't know how to cry», which was co-commissioned by the Tonkunstler Orchestra, and concluding with the symphonies of **Gustav Mahler** at the season's end. The season includes numerous attractive masterpieces of Classical and Romantic music, including symphonies by **Ludwig van Beethoven, Jean Sibelius, Johannes Brahms** and **Antonín Dvořák**. Fans of choral symphonic music can look forward to **George Frideric Handel's** oratorio «Messiah». This is combined with an exciting selection of concertos and an attractive guest list with familiar and new faces. To mark the 200th anniversary of **Anton Bruckner**, the Tonkunstler Orchestra has three of his symphonies on the programme – conducted by former Music Director **Fabio Luisi**, who for the first time since 2000 returns to the subscription concerts, as well as by **Jakob Lehmann** and **Yutaka Sado**, who completes his performance series of «mature» Bruckner symphonies in March 2025.

In June 2025, **Yutaka Sado** will be succeeded as Music Director by **Fabien Gabel**, who has already introduced the new season with the Tonkunstler Orchestra on 9 April 2024 in a festive **Musical Programme Presentation** in the **Musikverein Wien** and will be back in the subscription in February 2025.

In addition to the symphonic programmes, the Tonkünstler Orchestra again presents a broad stylistic palette on three evenings of the **Plugged-In** world music series. We also offer our **festival concerts** to mark Christmas, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and Good Friday. There will be no fewer than **four New Year's Concerts** around 4 January 2025 in the **Musikverein Wien**. The orchestra is booked for two ambitious **stage productions** in the **Festspielhaus St. Pölten** and participation in the **Grafenegg Festival** in summer 2024. The Tonkünstler Orchestra will also perform a number of concerts in its Lower Austrian residencies in **Baden** and **Wiener Neustadt**. In autumn 2024, the orchestra will get back an old performance venue in the form of the **Stadttheater Wiener Neustadt** in the former imperial residence, which is currently being renovated.

As part of **Tonspiele**, its **music education programme**, the Tonkünstler Orchestra offers events for children, young people, schools and families, as well as for people with special needs. The **educational aspect** in the orchestra's portfolio is also emphasised by the three-part subscription for the «**Explained. Experienced!**» concert format with the Ö1 radio broadcaster **Albert Hosp**.

Since 2016, the orchestra's own **CD label** has released more than 25 discs, of which 20 were conducted by Yutaka Sado. Two new CDs have already come out in 2024: the **First** and **Seventh Symphonies** by **Gustav Mahler**. These will be followed in September 2024 by the same composer's **Sixth** Symphony and in January 2025 his **Ninth**. With the **Eighth**, the «Symphony of a Thousand», the recorded **cycle of completed Mahler symphonies** will be brought to a close under **Yutaka Sado's** direction in autumn 2025.

The Tonkünstler Orchestra is the only Austrian symphony orchestra to hold three major residencies. It does so thanks to its regular **venues**: the **Musikverein Wien**, the **Festspielhaus St. Pölten** and **Grafenegg**. Forty percent of the orchestra's members are women. The average age is 43.

Tickets and information

For further information and a complete season programme: tonkuenstler.at

Season brochure 24–25 and **subscription brochure Vienna**: issuu.com/tonkuenstler

Subscriptions for the 24–25 season in Vienna and Grafenegg can be bought in the **Tonkünstler box office** at Herrengasse 10 in Vienna.

Subscriptions for the **Tonkünstler cycles** in the 24–25 season at the **Festspielhaus St. Pölten** are available in the **St. Pölten box office**. **General ticket sales** for events in **Vienna** and **Grafenegg** start on 4 September 2024. For all concerts in the «Tonkünstler Orchestra» series in the **Festspielhaus St. Pölten**, individual tickets are **already on sale**. Tickets are also available at all **NÖKU Tickets partner businesses**: noeku.at/tickets

Tonkünstler Orchestra box office | NÖKU Tickets. Vienna

Herrengasse 10 | 1010 Vienna | T: +43 1 586 83 83 | wien@noeku.at | tonkuenstler.at