**SASCHA GOETZEL**

*Artistic Director & Principal Conductor*

*Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra*

Vienna born Sascha Goetzel is artistic director and principal conductor of the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra (BIPO), and has achieved high artistic standards and international recognition for this exceptional body of musicians, which has performed at the Salzburg Festival and in July 2014, had its brilliant debut at the BBC Proms. He is principal guest conductor of the Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra in Japan. After a six-year tenure as the music director of the Kuopio Symphony in Finland he remains a regular guest with the orchestra. He is the artistic director of Istanbul’s Music for Peace Foundation and works closely with young people in music education, development and performance.

Following acclaimed new productions of the Mozart Da Ponte operas and *La bohème* at the Tiroler Landestheater Valery Gergiev invited him to conduct *Don Giovanni* at the legendary Mariinsky Theater. He conducted Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker* at the Vienna State Opera, and a new production of *The Magic Flute* in Lucerne. At Vienna’s Volksoper he conducted new productions of Lehár’s *Land of Smiles*, Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Entführung aus dem Serail* and Nicolai’s *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which he directed in the Volksoper’s tour of Japan. For the reopening of the Opéra de Montpellier he conducted a new production of Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* featuring costumes by Jean-Paul Gaultier; in Istanbul he has presented concert performancesof Bizet’s *Carmen,* Richard Strauss’s *Salome* as well as Verdi’s *Aïda* with the choir of Rome’s Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. Following a great success with *Le nozze di Figaro* in the autumn of 2014 the Vienna State Opera has invited Goetzel for productions of *Die Zauberflöte, Don Giovanni, Rigoletto* and *Rosenkavalier* until 2018. Singers with whom he has worked include Placido Domingo, José Carreras, Anna Netrebko, Renée Fleming, Joseph Calleja, Piotr Beczala, Juan Diego Flórez, Thomas Hampson and Michael Schade.

His spectacular work with the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra has been documented in three CDs released by Onyx. The first featured orchestral works by Respighi, Hindemith and Florent Schmitt, the second is entitled *Music from the Machine Age,* and both received superb reviews. A third recording featuring Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherezade* and other Western works with oriental influences was awarded “5 stars for the performance and 5 stars for the sound” by *BBC Music Magazine*. A recording of works by Bach and Schnittke with the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris and Deborah and Sarah Nemtanu was released in 2014.

Most recently Sascha Goetzel has conducted concerts with the Orchestre National de France in Paris, Orchestre de Bordeaux, Kanagawa Philharmonic, the Romanian National Radio Orchestra, a week long Beethovenfest in Istanbul, the Kioi Sinfonietta as well as the Argovia Philharmonic with a debut in Zurich’s Tonhalle. Other highlights include a new production of *Rigoletto* in Rennes, a concert commemorating the First World War with the Luxembourg Philharmonic and a gala with Thomas Hampson and the Belgian National Orchestra.

After a festival of American music with his Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic in December Sascha Goetzel will conduct a series of New Year concerts with the Orchestre National de Lyon prior to going on tour with BIPO, including concerts in Vienna and Frankfurt. Spring brings concerts in Paris with the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, Bordeaux, the Orchestre Nationale de Lorraine in Nancy, the Romanian National Radio Orchestra in Bucharest and the Kyoto Symphony, as well as a concert version of Bellini’s *Norma* in Istanbul.

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