Maestro Ralf Kircher

The versatile conductor Ralf Kircher was born in Klagenfurt, Austria. He studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna: composition, orchestral conducting and percussion – in 1994 he was awarded his diploma with Highest Distinction. Already as a student, he played timpani and percussion in the mayor Viennese orchestras, mainly the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and the Vienna State Opera Orchestra. Additionally, Kircher has also frequently appeared as a percussion soloist, performing in the Golden Hall of the Wiener Musikverein. In 1998 he joined the renowned conducting class at the Sibelius-Academy in Helsinki under Leif Segerstam, with whom he remained for three years, obtaining his conducting diploma with Distinguished Grades. In synch with these studies he held a vacancy as a timpanist in the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, later on he concentrated on his conducting career solely. In 2004 Ralf Kircher was awarded the international Chivas Baton Conductor Award.

He is regularly conducting Finland’s as well as Scandinavia’s leading orchestras, among them the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Lahti Symphony, Turku Philharmonic Orchestra, Oulu Symphony Orchestra, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Gävle Symphony Orchestra and Trondheim Symphony Orchestra.

Other European engagements include performances with the Brucknerorchester Linz, the Maribor Philharmonic Orchestra, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra - the latter appointed him chief guest conductor in 2009 /2010.

Kircher is frequently appearing outside Europe as well: repeatedly he has been performing with the Qingdao Symphony Orchestra (China), in the course of this season he will conduct the Urumuqi Symphony Orchestra (China) and the Hubei Symphony Orchestra (China).

Ralf Kircher participated at the Savonlinna Opera Festival (Wagner Tristan and Isolde) and has also been conducting in various productions of the Finnish National Opera (Adams The Death of Klinghoffer, Strauss Arabella, Mozart The Abduction from the Seraglio) and the Royal Opera of Stockholm (Wagner Valkyria). He made his Central European opera debut in Prague at the Prague National Theatre, successfully stepping in for the season premiere of J. Adam’s opera The Death of Klinghoffer. He has conducted frequently at other opera houses all over Europe, among them the West Coast Kokkola Opera (Strauss The Bat, Berg Lulu) or in the Stadttheater Klagenfurt (Rossini L’Italiana in Algeri, Berlioz The Damnation of Faust). During spring 2012 he appeared for the first time at the Malmö Opera (Wagner Parsifal) and was immediately re-invited for the following season (opening concert, Mozart The Magic Flute, Puccini Le Villi) – starting with this season, Kircher will be engaged at the Malmö Opera as conductor in residence (new productions of Massenet Manon, Puccini La Boheme, Strauss Der Rosenkavalier). During last winter, Kircher conducted a new production of Verdi’s Un Ballo in Maschera at the Jyväskylä Opera.

Compassion for contemporary music has always been a driving force in Kircher’s work: one of the highlights was his performance of the world première of Leif Segerstam´s 101 Symphony with the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra at the 2,500 seat National Concert of Taiwan, and his additional cooperation with Maestro Leif Segerstam for the Warsaw Autumn Contemporary Music Festival in Poland. He first performed the Finnish opera Sulka (by Tapani Länsiö) at the Finnish National Opera.

Ralf Kircher’s enjoyment of diversity shows clearly because of his interest in operettas and musicals. He is a well sought-after conductor of “Viennese Music” all over Scandinavia.

**“Dietsch Artists International only represents Maestro Ralf Kircher in the USA, North & South America & parts of Europe, but not Denmark – or the rest of Scandinavia.”**