



**Tokyo Symphony Orchestra**  
Muza Kawasaki Central Tower 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
1310 Omiya cho, Saiwai-ku  
Kawasaki city, Kanagawa, 212-8554  
TEL: +81-(0)44-520-1518  
FAX: +81-(0)44-543-1488  
<http://tokyosymphony.jp>

## TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1946. It has Hubert Soudant as Music Director, Kazuyoshi Akiyama as Laureate Conductor, Naoto Otomo as Permanent Conductor, Norichika Iimori as Resident Conductor and Krzysztof Urbanski as Principal Guest Conductor. Jonathan Nott will assume the position of Music Director of the orchestra from 2014. The lineup of conductors who have conducted for the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra in the past include distinguished names such as Arvid Jansons, Hidemaro Konoye and Masashi Ueda.

In April 2011, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra was accredited as 'a public interest incorporated foundation' by the Cabinet Office, which meant that its activities were widely recognized as being sound and serving public interest. Moreover, it was chosen as one of the four orchestras to receive annual provision for the first year of the Japan Arts Council's Special Programme for Top-level Performing Arts Creativity that was inaugurated in fiscal year 2012.

Since September 2012, the orchestra has been run by a new management team consisting of Hideo Sawada, who was invited from H.I.S. Co., Ltd. as the new Chairman, Tadashi Yokokawa as Honorary Chairman, Hajime Hirasawa and Tatsumi Yoda both as Vice Chairman.

Since becoming the resident orchestra of the City of Kawasaki in July 2004, the Tokyo Symphony has been holding Kawasaki subscription concerts, masterpiece collection concerts, music appreciation classes, citizen's concerts as well as visiting and performing at facilities in various parts of the city. It has also signed a semi-resident orchestra agreement with the City of Niigata, where it has been performing subscription concerts, special concerts, concerts for fifth graders and others since 1999.

The orchestra performs over 160 times a year, combining both self-produced performances and commissioned performances. It has been playing at New National Theatre, Tokyo's opera and ballet performances from January through March every year as one of the two regularly performing orchestras.

The Tokyo Symphony has a reputation for giving first performances of a number of new contemporary music and opera. Some of the major new works that it has performed in recent years include Helmut Lachenmann's opera *The Little Match Girl* (2000, Japanese premiere, concert-style) Toshiro Mayuzumi's opera *Kojiki* (A Record of Ancient Matters) (2001, Japan premiere, concert-style), John Adam's *El Niño* (2003, Japan premiere), John Adam's *Flowering Tree* (2008, Japan premiere, centre-stage style),



**Tokyo Symphony Orchestra**  
Muza Kawasaki Central Tower 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
1310 Omiya cho, Saiwai-ku  
Kawasaki city, Kanagawa, 212-8554  
TEL: +81-(0)44-520-1518  
FAX: +81-(0)44-543-1488  
<http://tokyosymphony.jp>

*Janacek Opera Series, Schubert's Symphony Zyklus* (2008), *Schoenberg Project* (2011) and others, which have attracted attention in the music circle every year.

Through these activities, the orchestra has received most of Japan's major music awards such as the Minister of Education Award, Ongaku no Tomo Sha Award, the Grand Prix of Kyoto Music Award, Mainichi Art Award, Agency for Cultural Affairs Art Award, Mobil Music Award, Suntory Music Award and the Special Prize of Kenzo Nakajima Music Award.

The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra won the 21st Music Pen Club Japan Awards in the Concert and Performance Category for *Schubert Zyklus*, which was performed in the subscription concert in 2008. In the following year, the orchestra won prizes in two other categories of the same awards, namely the prize for Best Recording Product in the Classical Music Category and the prize for Best Recording in the Audio Category (recorded by N&F), for the recording of *Bruckner's Symphony No. 7*. Winning the same award for two consecutive years attracted attention to the orchestra all at once. In the orchestra ranking conducted by a music magazine in 2008, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra gained the highest positioning among Japanese orchestras.

Outside of Japan, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra has performed 71 times in 53 cities, commencing with the tour to North America in 1976. In recent years, it was invited to China's Dalian Summer International Art Festival in July 2010, becoming the first Japanese orchestra to perform in Dalian. The performance achieved great success and the orchestra was again invited to the same festival in July 2011.

The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra has also worked on concerts for children from an early stage. It received the 2010 Himawari Medal of Honor in the Group Category, highly commended for "making significant contributions to carrying on music culture to the next generation" through the 'Orchestra Experience from Age Zero' project (held since 2007). The 'Subscription Concert for Children' series (held since 2001), presented in collaboration with Suntory Hall, has drawn attention not only from the music circle but also from various fields for its innovative idea of presenting the first subscription concert for children in Japan.

The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra has also been actively engaged in recording and broadcasting projects. It has released albums from several labels such as TOKYO SYMPHONY Label, N&F Label, King Records, EXTON and Nippon Columbia Label. The orchestra also regularly performs on TV Asahi's programme 'Untitled Concerts'.

HP <http://tokyosymphony.jp>