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Tokyo Symphony mourns passing of Maestro Lorin Maazel

The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra deeply mourns the passing of Maestro Lorin Maazel.

Maestro Maazel first conducted the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra in November 7, 1963, which was his debut in Japan. Forty-eight years later, he led the Tokyo Symphony in performances of Beethoven's 1st symphony and Mahler's 1st Symphony in a special concert commemorating the TSO's 65th anniversary. This concert took place after the Great East Japan Earthquake in March, 2011, which severely damaged our home concert hall, so his appearance gave us great encouragement. TSO musicians still describe that concert performed under his baton as an unforgettable experience.

We were especially shocked by the sudden news of his passing because we had been discussing with him his return to conduct the TSO in the 2015 season.

We remember Maestro Maazel expressing his love of Japanese culture including Kabuki and Noh and Japanese cuisine. He enjoyed drinking Japanese green tea during rehearsals and backstage.

We express our sincere condolences to his family and express our gratitude for what he bequeathed us and the musical world.

July 15, 2014

Tokyo Symphony Orchestra