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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LORENZO VIOTTI NAMED NEXT MUSIC DIRECTOR
OF THE TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA****Mr. Viotti becomes Music Director in 2026/27 season.
Initial Three-Year Contract to commence in April 2026**

Tokyo Symphony Orchestra Chairman Tatsuya Okazaki and Managing Director and Executive Director Yoshitaka Hirooka announced today that conductor Lorenzo Viotti will become the Orchestra's next Music Director, beginning in the 2026/27 season. The initial agreement is for three years.

As the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra's fourth music director, Mr Viotti will succeed Jonathan Nott, whose tenure began in 2014 and ended with the 2025/26 season.

Born in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1990, Viotti, now 34, is Chief Conductor of the Dutch National Opera and the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra. He already regularly conducts many of the world's leading orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Staatskapelle Dresden and Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, and in June 2024 he led a tour of Germany, Switzerland, and Spain with the Vienna Philharmonic. In opera, in addition to the Dutch National Opera, he conducted Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* (new production) directed by Daniele Abbado at La Scala in February 2024 and Kalman's *Die Csardasfurstin* at the Zurich Opera in April 2024. He is currently sought after by many of most prestigious orchestras and opera houses.

Mr Viotti's debut with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra was at the Tokyo Opera City Series in July 2014. He conducted Smetana's "Vltava (Moldau)" from *Ma Vlast*, Dvořák's Cello Concerto (cello: David Geringas) and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4. This was not only his Japanese debut, but also his professional orchestral debut. He showed a wide variety of musicality and has since collaborated with the orchestra a total of five times, in 2016, 2019 (twice) and 2023. In 2024, ten years after their first collaboration, he will be welcomed as the orchestra's music director.

"Japanese cultural respect has always been something I admire greatly," said Lorenzo Viotti. "From my first weeks as a percussionist in Tokyo 14 years ago, visiting conservatories and experiencing the professionalism of its musicians, I was immediately charmed by this culture."

Lorenzo Viotti also commented: "The Tokyo Symphony was my first professional orchestra in my career. With no experience in an orchestra of this level, I remember being wonderfully welcomed by its musicians. Their loyalty, love, and passion for this art are things that have not changed over the years. Classical music in Japan is a significant cultural pillar, and I am deeply touched and honored to contribute to its continuity. I look forward to starting this musical day and sharing my passion for this art with the Japanese audience and the wonderful musicians of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra."

"We are delighted to welcome Mr Lorenzo Viotti as our new Music Director from the 2026/27 season," said Tatsuya Okazaki, Chairman of the Tokyo Symphony. "Mr Viotti, who has already performed with us several times, is a 34-year-old genius who combines a delicate, soft sensibility with ambitious dynamism. We are sure that he will open new musical doors for us. We would like to draw your attention, music lovers, to this new performance."

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“Ten years after making his conducting debut with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Mr. Lorenzo Viotti, whose remarkable success has taken Europe by storm, as our new Music Director from the 2026/27 season.” said Yoshitaka Hirooka, Managing Director of the Tokyo Symphony. “We are confident that his rich repertoire, including opera, and diverse musicality will breathe new life into the Japanese music world. We hope you will be looking forward to the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra as it continues to evolve.”

Lorenzo VIOTTI

Lorenzo Viotti is to be Music Director of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra in the 2026/27 season.

One of the most dynamic conductors of his generation, Lorenzo Viotti is currently Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and the Dutch National Opera, where he conducts two much-anticipated productions in the 2024/2025 season: The Amsterdam premiere of Barrie Kosky’s celebrated *Die Fledermaus* and a new production of Benjamin Britten’s *Peter Grimes*, directed by Barbara Horáková. He also continues his relationship with Oper Zürich with a new production of Korngold’s *Die Tote Stadt*, directed by Dmitri Tcherniakov.

His symphonic season features his return to the United States for his debut with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. In Europe, to deepen his relationships with leading symphony orchestras, he returns to the Filharmonica della Scala, Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Gürzenich Orchestra, Orchestra of the Deutsche Oper Berlin and the Gulbenkian Orchestra Lisbon, where he was Chief Conductor from 2018-2021. Furthermore, he makes his debut with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and closes the season with concerts with the Vienna Symphony. Viotti concludes his tenure as Music Director of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra with six varied programs in the Concertgebouw and a tour within the Netherlands.

Highly esteemed as symphonic guest conductor, Lorenzo Viotti has worked with many of the world’s leading orchestras, including e.g. Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Berlin, Saxon State Orchestra Dresden, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and Cleveland Orchestra.

Born into a French-Italian musical family in Lausanne, Lorenzo Viotti studied piano, singing, and percussion in Lyon and attended orchestral conducting courses with Professor Georg Mark in Vienna, where he also performed as percussionist with numerous renowned orchestras including the Vienna Philharmonic. He completed his conducting studies with Nicolas Pasquet at the University of Music Franz Liszt Weimar and has won several prestigious conducting competitions, most notably the *Nestlé Young Conductors Award* at the Salzburg Festival in 2015, the 11th International Conducting Competition of the Cadaqués Orchestra, and the MDR Symphony Orchestra Conductors Competition, and in 2017 was honoured as “Newcomer of the Year” at the *International Opera Awards* in London.

Music Directors of the Tokyo Symphony

Jonathan Nott	2014 - present
Hubert Soudant	2004 - 2014
Kazuyoshi Akiyama	1965 - 2004

*Photographs are available from the Tokyo Symphony online pressroom,
<https://tokyosymphony.jp/en/presskit/>*

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