

MARKO LETONJA

Conductor

The Slovene Marko Letonja studied piano and conducting with Professor Anton Nanut at the Academy of Music in Ljubljana. At the same time, he was a student of Professor Otmar Suitner at the Vienna Academy of Music, from which he graduated in 1989.

From 1991 to 2003, he was Musical Director of the Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra. He has conducted orchestras including the Wiener Symphoniker, Münchner and Bremen Philharmoniker, Staatsorchester Stuttgart, the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, the Melbourne and Monterey Symphony Orchestras, the Orchestra Sinfonica "Giuseppe Verdi" Milan on tour and the opera orchestras of Cagliari and Stockholm (with Nina Stemme).

From 2003 to 2006, he was Music Director and Chief Conductor of both the Symphony Orchestra and the Opera in Basel, where he conducted new productions of *Tannhäuser*, *La Traviata*, *Der Freischütz*, *Boris Godunov*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Rigoletto* and *Don Giovanni*, among others. In addition, he made multiple recordings with the Basel Symphony Orchestra.

He has led *Pique Dame* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, *Roméo et Juliette* at the Teatro dell'Opera of Rome, *Nabucco* at Semperoper Dresden, *Il dissoluto assolto/Sancta Susanna*, *The Makropoulos Case* and *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* at La Scala Milan, *La Cenerentola* at the Opéra National de Montpellier, *Rigoletto* at the West Australian Opera in Perth, *Madama Butterfly* at the Staatsoper Berlin and *Die Walküre* at Opéra du Rhin, *Pagliacci*, *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Flying Dutchman* at the Teatro Lirico in Cagliari, *Carmen* in concert with the Munich Rundfunkorchester, *La Traviata* at Deutsche Oper Berlin.

After performances of *Die Walküre* and *Siegfried* at the Teatro Sao Carlos in Lisbon, he returned thereto for *Götterdämmerung* in autumn 2009. Further opera projects include *Rosenkavalier*, *Ferner Klang* and *From the House of the dead* at the Strasbourg Opera, *La Traviata* and *Tosca* at the Stuttgart Opera, *Il trovatore* and *La Traviata* at Opera Australia.

On a major New Zealand/Australian tour in the summer 2007, he conducted concerts with the Auckland Philharmonia, the Orchestra Victoria and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Beginning with season 2008/09 he was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of Orchestra Victoria Melbourne. He is again returning to Australia/New Zealand for concert tours in 2011. Further concerts are scheduled with Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, with the Basel Symphony Orchestra and the Munich Rundfunkorchester.

Marko Letonja is designated Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg and Artistic Director of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra.