**SASCHA GOETZEL**

*Artistic Director & Principal Conductor*

*Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra*

Vienna born Sascha Goetzel is artistic director and principal conductor of the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra (BIPO), and has achieved high artistic standards and international recognition for this exceptional body of musicians, which has performed at the Salzburg Festival and in July 2014, had its brilliant debut at the BBC Proms. He is principal guest conductor of the Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra in Japan. After six-year tenure as the music director of the Kuopio Symphony in Finland he remains a regular guest with the orchestra. He is the artistic director of Istanbul’s Music for Peace Foundation and works closely with young people in music education, development and performance.

Following acclaimed new productions of the Mozart Da Ponte operas and *La bohème* at the Tiroler Landestheater Valery Gergiev invited him to conduct *Don Giovanni* at the legendary Mariinsky Theater. He conducted Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker* at the Vienna State Opera, and a new production of *The Magic Flute* in Lucerne. At Vienna’s Volksoper he conducted new productions of Lehár’s *Land of Smiles*, Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Entführung aus dem Serail* and Nicolai’s *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, which he directed in the Volksoper’s tour of Japan. For the reopening of the Opéra de Montpellier he conducted a new production of Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* featuring costumes by Jean-Paul Gaultier; in Istanbul he has presented concert performancesof Bizet’s *Carmen,* Richard Strauss’s *Salome* as well as Verdi’s *Aïda* with the choir of Rome’s Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. Following a great success with *Le nozze di Figaro* in the autumn of 2014 the Vienna State Opera has invited Goetzel for productions of *Die Zauberflöte, Don Giovanni, Rigoletto* and *Rosenkavalier* until 2018. Last season he conducted a new production of Cimarosa’s *Il matrimonio segreto* at the Opéra National de Lorraine in Nancy. Singers with whom he has worked include Placido Domingo, José Carreras, Anna Netrebko, Renée Fleming, Joyce Di Donato, Joseph Calleja, Piotr Beczala, Juan Diego Flores, Thomas Hampson and Michael Schade.

His spectacular work with the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra has been documented in three CDs released by Onyx. The first featured orchestral works by Respighi, Hindemith and Florent Schmitt, the second is entitled *Music from the Machine Age,* and both received superb reviews. A third recording featuring Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Scheherezade* and other Western works with oriental influences was awarded “5 stars for the performance and 5 stars for the sound” by *BBC Music Magazine*. A recording of works by Bach and Schnittke with the Orchestre de Chambre de Paris and Deborah and Sarah Nemtanu was released in 2014; other recordings for Deutsche Grammophon with Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic, accordeonist Ksenija Sidorova and violinist Nemanja Radulović was released in 2015 and 2017.

Recent highlights include performances with the Orchestre National de France in Paris, Orchestre National de Bordeaux Aquitaine, Orchestre National de Lyon and the Israel Symphony, his Japanese opera debut with the Tokyo Philharmonic in *Le nozze di Figaro,* a debut in the Zurich Tonhalle, opening the 2016 and 2017 Vienna State Opera with the Vienna Philharmonic and two concerts at the Hong Kong Festival. Earlier this year he conducted the Geneva Chamber Orchestra, as well as the Turkish premiere of *Der Rosenkavalier,* in which young Turkish singers prepared roles at the Academy BIPO and sang alongside international stars, as well as performances of *Rosenkavalier* and *Rigoletto* at the Vienna State Opera. The current season begins with a series of *Don Giovanni* performances at the Vienna State Opera, concerts with in Frankfurt/Oder, Bratislava and Tokyo. In October Goetzel and Borusan Philharmonic premiered the first performances of “Shadow Walker”, a double concerto written for violinists Vadim Repin and Daniel Hope by Mark-Anthony Turnage in Istanbul, Essen, Ljubljana, Vienna and Zurich. In December he conducted two concerts in Istanbul featuring all the piano concerti of Sergei Prokofiev with Alexei Volodin, followed by three concerts in Graz with the renowned Recreation Orchestra.

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