

MICHAEL LESSKY, conductor

The Austrian conductor Michael Lessky comes from a highly musical Viennese family. His conductor's training he gained in the first instance with Karl Österreicher at the Vienna Music Academy, acquiring additional important impulses by frequently assisting Claudio Abbado at the Vienna State Opera as well as with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra. In addition he studied law, piano, organ, church music and the theory of jazz in Vienna.

In 1995 together with Ildiko Raimondi, Hans-Peter Blochwitz and Bernd Weikl as soloists and the Austro-Hungarian Haydn Philharmonic Orchestra, he made his successful debut in the Vienna Musikverein conducting Haydn's The Creation. This was the starting point for many successful concerts with masterpieces such as Verdi's „Requiem“, Mozart's "C-minor Mass“, Bruckner's „Te Deum“, Brahms' „Requiem“ and numerous works of French and Italian repertoire.

Lessky was then engaged from Festivals as St. Margarethen Opera Festival, the largest open air-opera festival in Europe, Ravello Festival, Mahler Musikwochen in Toblach, Mozarteum Brasileiro, Histria-Festival, Festival Saarbrücken, Brucknerhaus Linz. Further cooperations with Accademia del Teatro alla Scala Milano and two large tours to China.

He worked many times with soloists as Agnes Baltsa, José Carreras, Ildiko Raimondi, Janina Baechle, Bernd Weikl, Robert Holl, Saimir Pirgu and soloists of Bayreuther Festspiele and choirs like Wiener Staatsopern Chor, Bregenzer Festspielchor, Coro del Friuli Venezia Giulia.

In 1997 Lessky founded the Austrian national youth orchestra „Vienna Youth Philharmonic Orchestra“, which under his direction became the Austrian “elite orchestra of the next generation.”

Michael Lessky was guest-conductor of Wiener Mozart Akademie, Austrian-Hungary Haydn-Philharmonie, Malta Philharmonic Orchestra and he will make soon his debut with Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Nacional del Ossodre in Montevideo.

Important CD releases are the Mahler Symphonies Nos. 2, 4, 5 and orchestral songs of Strauss, Schubert, Mahler, Zemlinsky, Webern with Vienna state opera's soprano Ildiko Raimondi and of particular value the live recording made, too, with Vienna State Opera's soloists at Vienna's Redoutensaal for Sony BMG.

The works of Mahler and Bruckner are another emphasis. His interpretations of the Mahler Symphonies No. 2 and No. 4 and Bruckner's Nr 4 and Nr.9 aroused particular notice with the public and press. He conducted operas, too, as Nabucco, Magic Flute and Cosí fan tutte and a special Wagner-Gala with excerpts of all ten important operas.