

BÜHNEN BERN

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Bühnen Bern: Krzysztof Urbański will be the new Chief Conductor of the Bernese Symphony Orchestra

The board of trustees of Bühnen Bern has elected Krzysztof Urbański to be the new Chief Conductor of the Bernese Symphony Orchestra. Beginning in the season 2024/25 Urbański will be leading the Bernese Symphony Orchestra in his new capacity.

The Polish conductor Krzysztof Urbański is considered to be one of the most renowned and sought after conductors worldwide. The Chicago Tribune praises «his keen musical instincts and vigorous way of translating his ideas into orchestral sound that has both shape and meaning». Equally versed in the music of the romantic period as in the music of 20th and 21st century Urbański's talent consists in discovering new perspectives of the classical repertoire. He was Music Director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra from 2011 to 2021 and Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra from 2010 to 2017, which made him an honorary guest conductor at the end of his tenure. He was also Principal Guest Conductor of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra (2012 – 2016) and Principal Guest Conductor of the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra (2015 – 2021).

As a guest Krzysztof Urbański has conducted numerous renowned orchestras worldwide, including the Munich Philharmonic, the Berlin Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchester de Paris. He has also made guest appearances with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the National Symphony Orchestra Washington. In November 2022 he was appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana.

His discography includes i.a. a recording of Martinů's Cello Concerto No. 1 with Sol Gabetta and the Berlin Philharmonic and recording of Chopin's works for piano and orchestra with Jan Lisiecki and the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, which was awarded an ECHO Klassik.



Nadine Borter, President of Bühnen Bern's board of trustees: «A first-class musician has been recruited for the Bernese Symphony Orchestra. This is exactly what we wanted: a young and very successful artist with a clear musical vision. His extraordinary ability and an inquisitive, exciting program design will help us to continue on our path to attract new audiences. Over the past few years, I have observed with great respect the orchestra's determination and passionate discipline to constantly develop and to surpass itself. With Krzysztof Urbański we have found the ideal partner.»

The director of Bühnen Bern Florian Scholz comments the election of Krzysztof Urbański: «In the past few seasons, the Bernese Symphony Orchestra has very consciously sought out a large number of enriching and very nice encounters in the hope of meeting the «right» person. The work between our new Chief Conductor and the orchestra has been very enjoyable right from the start and it seemed like an almost fateful encounter to us. It was a perfect match in every aspect, and that was the decisive reason why we felt we had to offer him this position. We were overjoyed he feels the same way and his willingness to get deeply involved, fills us all with great enthusiasm. A clear common artistic vision is already emerging. The promising projects, already under development, will be enriching for the future of the orchestra and, I am sure, will inspire our Bernese audience.»

The working relationship between Krzysztof Urbański and the Bernese Symphony Orchestra began last season when he conducted Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 in E minor at the 2nd Symphony Concert with resounding success at the Casino Bern.

Krzysztof Urbański is delighted about the decision of the Foundation Bühnen Bern: «I am very happy to accept this appointment and to work with the orchestra on a regular basis. I look forward to a fruitful collaboration with the musicians and the whole team of the Bernese Symphony Orchestra. During my first meeting with the orchestra, I noticed great potential and ambition. It felt like we had a strong musical connection which hopefully will develop to a wonderful relationship. I am also excited to experience the city of Bern. It seems to be a beautiful and peaceful place where people are warm and kind. I hope to establish a bond with the audience by bringing diverse and interesting programs to the Casino and sharing my passion for music with them.»



The appreciation is mutual: «After two seasons with wonderful guest conductors, we are delighted that we have found a conductor in Maestro Urbański who can further develop the identity of our orchestra. Urbański belongs to a younger generation of conductors who not only have had an outstanding career, but also have an open ear for the needs of the audience and the orchestra. His dynamic personality and musical sensibility are the exact combination that our orchestra needs right now», says David Guerchovitch, principal concertmaster at the Bern Symphony Orchestra.

Krzysztof Urbański's contract begins in the summer of 2024 and will initially last for three years. At least six subscription concerts with him conducting are planned for every season.