



PRESS RELEASE

Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award re-organised

(Zurich, 5 October 2011) The “Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award” was created in 2010 on the initiative of Nestlé and the Salzburg Festival under the patronage of Pierre Boulez. The competition aims to give highly talented young conductors decisive momentum for their career. German conductor David Afkham was the first prize-winner in 2010, and Ainārs Rubikis from Latvia won the award in 2011.

With Alexander Pereira as artistic director of the Salzburg Festival the following innovations will be introduced: the award will be extended by the Award Concert Weekend which takes place in April. Ingo Metzmacher will be chairman of the jury.

The three final candidates will each conduct a concert during the Award Concert Weekend on 28 and 29 April 2012 in the famous Felsenreitschule in Salzburg. In three concerts which will be open to the public, the partner orchestras of the weekend will be the Camerata Salzburg, the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra and the Munich Radio Orchestra and they will each perform together with a young, international soloist. As Alexander Pereira, artistic director of the Salzburg Festival, explains, “By organising this concert weekend we have made the award even more attractive and we are offering young conductors a further possibility to perform in public. In this way we intend to give the interested public the possibility of gaining deeper insights into the work of young conductors. By changing the selection criteria there will also be an improvement in the assessment.”

Besides the classical and romantic repertoire, the interpretation of contemporary works is of decisive importance for the selection. The prize amounting to € 15,000 will be awarded annually to a conductor aged between 22 and 35 years. The prize-winner nominated at the end of the Award Concert Weekend will conduct his first concert at the Salzburg Festival on 12 August 2012.



NESTLÉ AND SALZBURG FESTIVAL YOUNG CONDUCTORS AWARD

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Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, president of the board of directors of Nestlé, justifies this cooperation with the desire to create long-term and sustainable values not only for his own company but for society as a whole: “Having received the distinction of the ‘Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award’ two promising talented conductors have already gained important momentum as regards their international career. Performing during the Salzburg Festival gives the prize-winner the appropriate platform to prove his ability.”

Renowned jury now chaired by Ingo Metzmacher

As Ingo Metzmacher explains, “In order to be a good conductor, many years of experience with orchestras and their musicians are needed. The beginning is marked by distinct musicality and the unconditional desire to express something through the music. The playful character inherent in music-making should never be neglected. Conductors have to approach scores with a sense of discovery and enjoyment. My colleagues on the jury and myself are looking forward to becoming acquainted with young promising conductors and of selecting one to receive the distinction of the ‘Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award’”. Since the beginning of his career, Ingo Metzmacher’s work has been characterised by innovative programming and a consistent commitment to music of the 20th century. Highlights of recent years have included Luigi Nono’s *Al gran sole carico d’amore* and his *Prometeo* as well as the world premiere of Wolfgang Rihm’s *Dionysos* at the Salzburg Festival.

Ingo Metzmacher comes from Hanover and his career began with the Ensemble Modern in Frankfurt and also at the opera there under Michael Gielen. In 1997 Ingo Metzmacher was appointed as general music director at the Hamburg State Opera where over eight seasons he conducted many internationally highly acclaimed performances. Afterwards he was principal conductor at the Nederlandse Opera in Amsterdam, and from 2007 to 2010 principal conductor and artistic director of the German Symphony Orchestra in Berlin. His current projects include productions at Zurich Opera House, at the Vienna State Opera, Berlin State Opera, at the Grand Théâtre de Genève as well as concerts with the New Japan Philharmonic, the Russian National Orchestra, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Czech Philharmonic, the Orchestre de Paris and the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra. Ingo Metzmacher is the author of the books entitled *Keine Angst vor neuen Tönen* and *Vorhang auf! Oper entdecken und erleben*.

The jury of the “Nestlé and Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award” 2012

Pierre Boulez (patron)

Ingo Metzmacher (chairman of the jury)

Peter Alward (executive director of the Salzburg Easter Festival)

Andreas Bausdorf (deputy managing director of the German Orchestra Association)

Albena Danilova (violinist, leader of the Vienna Philharmonic)

Thomas Hampson (baritone)

Gary Hanson (managing director of the Cleveland Orchestra)

Christoph Lieben-Seutter (general manager of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg)

Brian McMaster (former director of the Edinburgh International Festival)

Alexander Meraviglia-Crivelli (general secretary of the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra)

Alexander Pereira (artistic director of the Salzburg Festival)

Aribert Reiman (composer)

Matthias Schulz (head of the concert planning office and media representative of the board of directors of the Salzburg Festival. Artistic director and managing director designate of the Salzburg Mozarteum Foundation)

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