

Hans Graf Conductor

The Austrian conductor Hans Graf was appointed Music Director of the Houston Symphony Orchestra in 2001 and concluded his tenure in May 2013 with a semi-staged production of Alban Berg's opera *Wozzeck* and a festive performance of Mahler's Second Symphony. He is the longest serving Music Director in the orchestra's history and holds the title of Conductor Laureate. Prior to his appointment in Houston, he was the Music Director of the Calgary Philharmonic for eight seasons and of the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine for six years. He also led the Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg from 1984 to 1994 and the Basque National Orchestra from 1994 to 1996.

Hans Graf is a frequent guest with the major North American orchestras. His recent and upcoming guest engagements include appearances with the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras, the New York and Los Angeles Philharmonics, the Boston, Atlanta, San Francisco, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Detroit, Dallas, Baltimore, Milwaukee and National Symphonies, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver Symphony Orchestras, among others.

Mr. Graf made his Carnegie Hall debut with the Houston Symphony in January 2006. They were re-invited in January to present the New York premiere of *The Planets - An HD Odyssey* by Duncan Copp, featuring exclusive high definition images from NASA accompanying Gustav Holst's *The Planets*. Mr Graf and the Houston Symphony returned in May 2012 to participate in Carnegie's Spring for Music Festival with an all-Shostakovich program.

In Europe, Mr. Graf has conducted the Vienna and London Philharmonics, the Vienna Symphony, Royal Concertgebouw, and Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestras, as well as the St. Petersburg Philharmonic and Russian National Philharmonic of Moscow, the

Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, Bavarian and Danish Radio Symphony Orchestras, the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the Netherlands Radio, Oslo and Stockholm Philharmonics, among others. He is also a regular guest with the Sydney, Melbourne, and Singapore Symphonies and the Seoul and Hong Kong Philharmonics.

In October 2010, Mr. Graf led the Houston Symphony on a tour of the UK with performances in Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh and two performances at the Barbican in London.

In June 2012, the Houston Symphony, led by Mr. Graf, was the first major American orchestra to appear at the Festival of World Symphony Orchestras in Moscow, presenting two programs, including Brucker 9, the Russian premiere of John Adams' Doctor Atomic Symphony and the first Russian performance of Shostakovich's Symphony 11 by a foreign orchestra.

During the summer of 2013, Mr. Graf appeared in three productions at the Salzburg Festival after numerous returns since his debut in 1983. He also participated in many other prestigious European festivals, including Bregenz, Grafenegg, Savonlinna, Orange, Aix en Provence and the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. His recent US festival appearances include the Tanglewood and Blossom Music Festivals, Aspen, Bravo! Vail and the Grant Park Music Festival in downtown Chicago.

An experienced opera conductor, Mr. Graf first conducted the Vienna State Opera in 1981 and has since led productions in the opera houses of Munich, Berlin, Paris, Rome and many others. Recent opera engagements include Zurich (*Parsifal*) and the Opera National du Rhin in Strasbourg (*Boris Godunov*). In 2014, he was awarded the Österreichischer Musiktheaterpreis for conducting Richard Strauss' opera *Die Feuersnot* at the Volksoper in Vienna.

Hans Graf's extensive discography includes the complete symphonies of Mozart and Schubert, the complete orchestral works of Henri Dutilleux (under the supervision of the composer) with the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine (BMG Arte Nova/SONY), as well as the world premiere recording of Zemlinsky's opera *Es war einmal* (Danish Radio, Capriccio). His

many recordings with the Houston Symphony include Bartok's *Wooden Prince* (Koch), Zemlinsky's *Lyrical Symphony*, Mahler's *Lied von der Erde* (Naxos) and a DVD of *The Planets - An HD Odyssey*. Naxos will also release Houston Symphony's *Wozzeck* in 2017. His most recent CDs present the complete works for viola and orchestra by Hindemith with Tabea Zimmermann and the DSO Berlin (Myrios) and Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Born near Linz, Austria, Hans Graf first studied piano. After receiving his diplomas in piano and conducting, he studied in Italy with Franco Ferrara and Sergiu Celibidache and a year in Russia with Arvid Jansons. Hans Graf has been nominated for the Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur by the French Government (2002) and was awarded the Grand Decoration of Honour of the Republic of Austria. He has served as Professor of Orchestral Conducting at the Universität Mozarteum in Salzburg since October of 2013.

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