

## Kazushi Ono

### Conductor

*Kazushi had matters firmly in control. The music stole in soft as a baby's breath, gentle as a summer breeze. Indeed, the entire Suite was performed with exquisite pastels and ethereal sweetness.*

*Bachtrack, 16/11/2016*

Kazushi Ono cherishes music's power to bring people together. His manner in rehearsal, quiet and calm, exudes qualities of openness and receptivity. The conductor conveys complex messages in performance with effortless expressive gestures and a wisdom informed by his inexhaustible passion for making and exploring music with others. It is in his nature to unwind after conducting by playing through passages from the evening's programme at the piano. Music, in short, has supplied the essential spirit of life since childhood.

Kazushi Ono is Music Director of Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra and Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya. In 2016 he became Artistic Advisor to the New National Theatre Tokyo, a position that he will hold until September 2018, after which he will become the Theatre's Artistic Director. Highlights in 2017 include Honegger's *Jeanne au Bûcher*, his last production in Lyon as its musical director and the acclaimed creation of Hermann's *Der Mieter*, premiered in Frankfurt Opera. From 2008 to 2017, Kazushi Ono maintained his position as Principal Conductor of Opéra National de Lyon, during which he attracted international critical acclaim with landmark performances of works such as Prokofiev's *The Gamblers*, Berg's *Lulu* and Wagner's *Parsifal*, thus reinforcing the company's reputation for creating a series of new productions, including the compelling double bill of Dallapiccola's *Il prigioniero* and Schoenberg's *Erwartung* (2013); Beethoven's *Fidelio*, in Lyon and at the Edinburgh International Festival (2013); Britten's *Peter Grimes* and *The Turn of the Screw* (2014); Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Berlioz's *La Damnation de Faust* (2015), and Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* (2016).

Following his tenure as Principal Conductor in Lyon, he was awarded 'Officier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres' by French cultural minister Françoise Nyssen, a further distinguished title adding to the prestigious Asahi Prize, given in January 2015, for his contribution to Japanese society. This award distinguishes individuals who have greatly contributed to the development and progress of Japanese culture and society at large.

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