Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival:
2015 Leonard Bernstein Award – Sponsored by the Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe

Krzysztof Urbański, who is one of the most sought-after young conductors worldwide, is the recipient of the 2015 Leonard Bernstein Award, sponsored by the Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe. His path to becoming a conductor, however, was highly unique. He first expressed an interest in learning an instrument at the age of 12. Because the guitar class was already full, he decided to take up horn instead. He also began to compose around this time, and since he wanted to hear his works performed, he began to gather other young music students together and conduct them. After completing his studies in French horn and conducting, and winning the »Prager Frühling« Festival conducting competition, his career really began to take off. He was named Chief Conductor of the Trondheim Symphony Orchestra in 2010 and Music Director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra a year later. He now regularly appears with the great orchestra of the world, making his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic in May, 2014. He will be appearing with the SHMF for the third time this year, and leading a phase of the Orchestra Academy for the second time.

Since 2002, the Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe has sponsored the annual €10,000 award of the Leonard Bernstein Award as part of the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival. This internationally renowned prize for young artists has been given to artists such as Lang Lang, Lisa Batiashvili, Erik Schumann, Jonathan Biss, Alisa Weilerstein, Martin Grubinger, Anna Vinnitskaya, Leonard Elschenbroich, Kit Armstrong, David Aaron Carpenter, Cameron Carpenter, Jan Lisiecki and Christopher Park. The Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe, which includes the Sparkassen des Landes, the HSH Nordbank AG, the LBS Bausparkasse Schleswig-Holstein-Hamburg AG, the Provinzial Nord-brandkasse AG
and the Deutsche Sparkassen- und Giroverband, wishes to make a significant contribution to the support of young talent by underwriting this prestigious award.

Again this year, leading figures in the international music scene such as Christoph Eschenbach (Principal Conductor of the international SHMF Orchestra Academy, Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts), Zarin Mehta (President and Executive Director of the New York Philharmonic), Jamie Bernstein Thomas (Leonard Bernstein Society), Alexander Bernstein (Leonard Bernstein Society) and Festival Director Dr. Christian Kuhnt have come together with Reinhard Boll, the President of the Sparkassen- und Giroverbandes for Schleswig-Holstein, to decide the winner of this year’s Leonard Bernstein Award.
»I couldn’t be happier that the decision was made for Krzysztof Urbański, and I would like to congratulate him on behalf of the Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe Schleswig-Holstein for winning this exceptional award. We are proud to be able to honor an outstanding artist again this year, who will join the ranks of the other outstanding winners of the Leonard Bernstein Award.« - Reinhard Boll, President of the Sparkassen-und Giroverbandes for Schleswig-Holstein. Festival Director, Dr. Christian Kuhnt had the following words to say: »The conductor Krzysztof Urbański already demonstrated what a great talent he is with his work at the 2013 Orchestra Academy. He impressed both the orchestra and audiences with his fiery, passionate conducting. We are all pleased by the selection and want to offer our sincerest congratulations. Krzysztof Urbański is an exceptional artists who meets the high expectations of the renowned Leonard Bernstein Award 100 percent.«

The 2015 Leonard Bernstein Award will be presented to Krzysztof Urbański during the award-winner concert on Friday, July 17 at the Musik- und Kongresshalle in Lübeck.

Jan Lisiecki Piano
Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra
Krzysztof Urbański Conductor

Program
Frederic Chopin: Andante spianato et Grande Polonaise brillante op. 22, Piano Concerto No. 2 in F-minor, op. 21
Igor Stravinsky: Le sacre du printemps