Aziz Shokhakimov

Conductor

**Music Director: Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Artistic Director: Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra**

“[..] the young conductor Aziz Shokhakimov gave substance to the intense [Shostakovich] 10th Symphony. This major work of the twentieth century, rich and complex, requires experience, mastery, a quasi-architectural understanding of the work, finesse and power. And this Wednesday evening at Radio France, Aziz Shokhakimov embraced the full extent of this monumental symphony.”

*(Flore Vedry-Roussev, Classic Agenda, March 2019)*

Aziz Shokhakimov is Music Director to the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg from the 2021/22 season and Artistic Director to the Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra. During 2015-2021 he held the position of Kapellmeister to the Deutsche Oper am Rhein. His guest conducting has included orchestras such as the London Philharmonic, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, WDR SInfonieorchester Köln, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, and hr-Sinfonieorchester. In North America he has conducted the Toronto, Houston and the Utah Symphonies.

Forthcoming engagements include Wiener Symphoniker, Orchestre National de France, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, RAI Turin, Basel Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre National de Belgique, Warsaw Philharmonic and Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra among others.

Aziz Shokhakimov is equally prolific in the operatic repertoire. During his period as Kapellmeister at Deutsche Oper am Rhein he conducted a new production of *The Queen of Spades, Madama Butterfly, Salome* and *Tosca* to name a few. During his tenure with Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg he will conduct an opera production per season – the first of which will be Walter Braunfels’ *Die Vögel*.

Shokhakimov has an ongoing relationship with Salzburg Festival where, having been selected from more than 100 candidates, he won the prestigious Salzburg Festival Young Conductors Award in August 2016. He returned to the Salzburg Festival in August 2017 for the prize-winner’s concert with RSO Wien and conducted the Opening Ceremony of Salzburg Festival with Patricia Kopatchinskaja in 2019.

Born in 1988 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Shokhakimov entered the Uspensky Music School for Gifted Children at the age of 6, studying violin, viola and orchestral conducting (in the class of Professor Vladimir Neymer). At 13 he made his debut with the National Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan, conducting Beethoven’s Symphony No.5 and Liszt’s Piano Concerto No.1. During the following year he conducted his first opera, *Carmen*, at the National Opera of Uzbekistan. He was appointed Assistant conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra of Uzbekistan in 2001 and became its Principal Conductor in 2006. In 2010, at the age of just 21, Shokhakimov won second place at the Gustav Mahler International Conducting Competition in Bamberg, under the auspices of the Bamberger Symphoniker.