Kahchun Wong
Conductor

“There is something really sincere and genuine in the way he communicates with the orchestra, and he conducts with assurance and warmth which must stem from his deep understanding of the score.” - *Bachtrack*

Singaporean conductor Kahchun Wong first came to international attention as the winner of the Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition in 2016, praised by *Musical America* for the “depth and sincerity of his musicality.”

In his final appearance as Chief Conductor of the Nürnberger Symphoniker this past summer, he led the world premiere of his orchestration of Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition to critical acclaim with an audience of 75,000 at the annual Klassik Open Air in Luitpoldhain. This sinfonia concertante version for Chinese instruments and orchestra was also broadcast on 3SAT and BR-Klassik.

Kahchun Wong continues his tenure as the Principal Guest Conductor for Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, before taking up the position of Chief Conductor from the 2023/24 season. At the same time, he will be ‘focus-artist’ at Dresdner Philharmonie, opening the season together with the cellist Gautier Capuçon

Highlights of 2022/23 include re-engagements with Seattle Symphony, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Singapore Symphony, Osaka Philharmonic, Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, Kyushu Symphony and Hyogo Performing Arts Center Orchestra. The season also includes debuts with the Hallé Orchestra, Taipei Symphony Orchestra and Taipei Chinese Orchestra.

Wong is celebrated by the press for his recent debuts with New York Philharmonic (where he conducted the US premiere of Tan Dun's *Fire Ritual*), Czech Philharmonic and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and has also successfully appeared with The Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Dresdner Philharmonie, Bamberger Symphoniker, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Orchestre national d'Île-de-France, Luxembourg Philharmonic, Valencia Orchestra, China Philharmonic, Shanghai Symphony, Guangzhou Symphony, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, New Japan Philharmonic, and Tokyo and Yomiuri Nippon symphony orchestras.

Wong believes in the power of music to inspire young musicians and foster their growth, mirroring his own journey as a musician from a young Southeast Asian country. In 2016, he co-founded ‘Project Infinitude’ with Marina Mahler, the granddaughter of Gustav Mahler. He has also worked closely with Child at Street 11, a nonprofit Singaporean agency supporting more than 100 children from underserved and diverse backgrounds. In 2019, together with BR-Klassik and Stadtsparkasse Nürnberg, he conceived and led a collaborative television project that raised donations for a nonprofit association for children in Germany.

Together with the German Embassy Singapore, Kahchun Wong co-founded ‘Beethoven im Garten’ in 2018. This is a side-by-side orchestral academy with principal players from Nürnberger Symphoniker (2018, 2019, 2020) and Dresdner Philharmonie (2022, 2023) mentoring students from Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music and the Southeast Asian region.

In December 2019, Wong became the first artist from Singapore to receive the Order of Merit by the Federal President of Germany for his dedicated service and outstanding achievements in Singaporean-German cultural relations and the advancement of German musical culture abroad.

As a protégé of the late Kurt Masur, Wong had the privilege of sharing the podium with him on multiple occasions. In 2016-17, he was invited to Los Angeles Philharmonic as a Dudamel Fellow, participating in a prestigious programme for burgeoning young conductors. He received a Master of Music degree in orchestral and operatic conducting at the Hanns Eisler Musikhochschule, in Berlin.