BIOGRAPHY

The **Mahler Chamber Orchestra (MCO)** was founded in 1997 based on the shared vision of being a free and international ensemble, dedicated to creating and sharing exceptional experiences in classical music. With 45 members spanning 20 different countries at its core, the MCO works as a nomadic collective of passionate musicians uniting for specific tours in Europe and across the world. The orchestra is constantly on the move: it has, to date, performed in 35 countries across five continents. It is governed collectively by its management team and orchestra board; decisions are made democratically with the participation of all musicians.

The MCO's sound is characterized by the chamber music style of ensemble playing among its alert and independent musical personalities. Its core repertoire, ranging from the Viennese classical and early Romantic periods to contemporary works and world premieres, reflects the MCO's agility in crossing musical boundaries.

The orchestra received its most significant artistic impulses from its founding mentor, Claudio Abbado, and from *Conductor Laureate* Daniel Harding. Pianist Mitsuko Uchida, violinist Isabelle Faust and conductor Teodor Currentzis are current *Artistic Partners* who inspire and shape the orchestra during long-term collaborations. In 2016, conductor Daniele Gatti was appointed *Artistic Advisor* of the MCO.

MCO musicians all share a strong desire to continually deepen their engagement with audiences. This has inspired a growing number of offstage musical encounters and projects that bring music, learning and creativity to communities across the globe. *Feel the Music*, the MCO's flagship education and outreach project, has opened the world of music to deaf and hard of hearing children through interactive workshops in schools and concert halls since 2012. MCO musicians are equally committed to sharing their passion and expertise with the next generation of musicians: since 2009, they have, through the MCO Academy, worked with young musicians to provide them with a high quality orchestral experience and a unique platform for networking and international exchange.

In recent years, the MCO's major projects have included the award-winning *Beethoven Journey* with pianist Leif Ove Andsnes, who led the complete Beethoven concerto cycle from the keyboard in international residences over four years, and the opera production *Written on Skin*, which the MCO premiered at the Festival d'Aix en Provence under the baton of composer George Benjamin, performed at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York and toured, as a semi-staged concert production, to major European cities. In 2016, the MCO and Mitsuko Uchida embarked on a multiple-season partnership centred on Mozart's piano concertos. Upon the conclusion of a complete cycle of Beethoven symphonies, the MCO and Daniele Gatti continue their focus on symphonic cycles in the upcoming seasons.

The MCO looks ahead to a series of distinguished projects, including outstanding collaborations with its *Artistic Partners*, in the first months of 2017. The year begins with a residency at the International Music Festival of the Canary Islands under the direction of Jakub Hrůša, while February sees the MCO giving its debut concert in Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie with Mitsuko Uchida. The spring features the MCO's first collaboration with pianist Daniil Trifonov, performances of Luciano Berio's *Coro* under the direction of Teodor Currentzis, two tours with Daniele Gatti and the MCO's residency at the Festival de Saint-Denis 2017.

The Mahler Chamber Orchestra has been awarded the Special Mention Prize of the German Design Award 2017 in recognition of its brand identity.