

For 21 years, Franz Welser-Möst has shaped an unmistakable sound culture as Musical Director of the Cleveland Orchestra. Under his leadership, the orchestra has been repeatedly praised by international critics for its musical excellence. Through innovative projects and co-operations, young audiences have been continuously approached and consulted and, as a result of these initiatives, the Cleveland Orchestra now has one of the youngest audiences in the USA. Throughout his tenure, he has continued the historical tradition of the Orchestra by having a strong presence of both newly-commissioned works and opera productions within the artistic programming. In addition to orchestral residencies in the USA, Europe and China, he and the Cleveland Orchestra are regular guests at all the major international festivals. Franz Welser-Möst will remain Musical Director of the Cleveland Orchestra until 2027, the longest tenure of any Music Director the orchestra has had.

As a guest conductor, Franz Welser-Möst enjoys a particularly close and productive artistic partnership with the Vienna Philharmonic. He regularly conducts the orchestra in subscription concerts at the Vienna Musikverein, as well as on tours in Europe, Japan, China and the USA. Welser-Möst and the Vienna Philharmonic have also performed together at historical memorial concerts in Sarajevo and Versailles. Franz Welser-Möst has appeared three times on the podium for their celebrated New Year's Concert (2011, 2013, 2023). The 2023 New Year's Concert was hailed by critics and audiences as one of the best in the concert's history.

Franz Welser-Möst is also a regular guest at the Salzburg Festival where he has set new standards in interpretation as an opera conductor with recent performances including *Rusalka*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Fidelio*, *Die Liebe der Danae*, Aribert Reimann's opera *Lear* and Richard Strauss' *Salome*, with which he made festival history in 2018. In 2020 he conducted Strauss' *Elektra* on the 100th Anniversary of its premiere, and was during that same period awarded the Ruby Festival Brooch. Franz Welser-Möst returned to Salzburg to conduct further performances of *Elektra* in 2021. In 2022 he conducted Giacomo Puccini's *Il Trittico* and next summer he will lead a new production of Giuseppe Verdi's *Macbeth*.

Franz Welser-Möst has been the recipient of a number of major honours and awards. He is Honorary Member of the Gesellschaft der Musikfreunde in Vienna, winner of the Vienna Philharmonic's Honorary Ring, and has been awarded the Kilenyi Medal of the Bruckner Society of America as well as the Kennedy Center Gold Medal in the Arts. In 2020, Franz Welser-Möst was awarded the Salzburg Festival Pin with Ruby in and in 2021, he was awarded the Austrian Music Theatre Prize for *Elektra* at the Salzburg Festival in the "Best Musical Direction" category.

Immediately following its release in summer 2020, Franz Welser-Möst's latest book, *Als ich die Stille fand. Ein Plädoyer gegen den Lärm der Welt*, became a No. 1 Austrian bestseller. In 2021 the book was translated and published in English (*From Silence: Finding Calm in a Dissonant World*).

Franz Welser-Möst has made numerous CD and DVD recordings, including the recording of *Der Rosenkavalier* and *Salome* from the Salzburg Festival, and many of his recordings have won international awards. In the summer of 2022, the Vienna Philharmonic released a live

recording of a concert at the Salzburg Festival with Richard Strauss' *Rosenkavalier-Suite* and *Alpine Symphony* in its *Special Annual Edition* series.

In 2020, the Cleveland Orchestra founded its own streaming platform: adella.live. Various recordings from Severance Hall are available as stream, download and CD. CDs with compositions by Richard Strauss and with works by the American composer George Walker have just been released on the Cleveland Orchestra's own CD label.

www.welsermoest.com