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Early Extension of Chief Conductor Joseph Bastian

Contract extended ahead of schedule – the Münchner Symphoniker and their conductor continue collaboration through 2031

The Münchner Symphoniker and their Chief Conductor Joseph Bastian are heading into the future together. The conductor's contract, who has served as Artistic Director of the orchestra since the 2023/24 season, has been extended ahead of schedule by a further four years, until 2031. This decision underscores the successful collaboration between Bastian and the orchestra, which has undergone a remarkable artistic development under his leadership.

Dr. Ulrich Wastl, Chairman of the Board of the Münchner Symphoniker, is delighted: *"In recent seasons, under the musical direction of Joseph Bastian, the Münchner Symphoniker have not only demonstrated immense artistic growth, but have also conceived and performed bold and award-winning concert projects. It is a great pleasure for us to extend this inspiring collaboration early for the next four seasons. Innovative and future-oriented projects such as the award-winning inclusion concert MASTERS OF INCLUSION have only been made possible through Joseph Bastian and have enriched not only the orchestra but also Munich's entire cultural landscape and beyond. It is simply a joy to witness and accompany this positive development and explosive creativity."*

Artistic and Thematic Diversity

Under the direction of Joseph Bastian, the Münchner Symphoniker have significantly expanded their artistic and thematic range. The orchestra addresses socially transformative issues with artistic excellence, positioning itself not only musically but also socially: experimenting with new technologies inspires the creative process just as much as socially relevant topics such as sustainability and inclusion. The early extension of Joseph Bastian's contract is a clear commitment to continuing this path.

Managing Director Tilman Dost adds: *"The early contract extension of Joseph Bastian is not only a recognition of the joint artistic successes of the Chief Conductor and orchestra, but also a commitment to this wonderful collaboration, which is characterized by bold and visionary projects and an extremely creative, inspiring, and appreciative partnership that sets new standards. Musical excellence is complemented by social engagement, courage, and visionary foresight – we look forward to the future together!"*

Broad Support within the Orchestra

The extension of Joseph Bastian's tenure is supported by the entire orchestra. In a vote, the ensemble expressed its wish to continue the collaboration. The orchestra board of the Münchner Symphoniker confirms the close bond:

"By a large majority, the orchestra has voted to continue the artistic collaboration and has once again confirmed Joseph Bastian as its preferred candidate and ideal appointment. We are very pleased about the contract extension and the confirmation of this very good and mutually inspiring relationship."

Joseph Bastian himself also thanked the musicians for their trust and appreciative cooperation:

“First and foremost, I would like to thank the orchestra musicians – for their trust in continuing this artistic journey together, for their musical excellence, and for their tireless enthusiasm in exploring new paths. I value their exceptional openness, as well as that of the entire team, particularly for such valuable projects as the inclusion concert MASTERS OF INCLUSION.

Awards such as the federal KULTURLICHTER Audience Award, the INNOVATION Prize of the German Orchestra Foundation, and the nomination for the German Record Critics’ Award are not only a wonderful recognition of our efforts – they are an important signal that we are addressing socially relevant issues through our music and that this orchestra has a valuable place in the orchestral landscape.

But we are not resting on our laurels. What is the next step? What can we change so that our music continues to send positive impulses into society? – I am very much looking forward to working with the Münchner Symphoniker on these questions in the long term.”

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Press materials for the orchestra are available at:
<https://www.m-sym.de/de/presseservice>



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