

Nodoka Okisawa

Conductor, Artist in Residence

Nodoka Okisawa is the winner of the renowned Concours international de jeunes chefs d'orchestre de Besançon 2019, where she was awarded the Grand Prix, the Orchestra Prize and the Audience Prize. In 2018, she won the Tokyo International Music Competition for Conducting, one of the most important international conducting competitions.

Following her debut with the Munich Symphony Orchestra in November 2021, Nodoka Okisawa will return to the podium as Artist in Residence in the 2022/23 season and can be experienced in a variety of concert formats.

Since the beginning of the 2020/2021 season, Nodoka Okisawa has been a scholarship holder at the Karajan Academy of the Berliner Philharmoniker and assistant to Kirill Petrenko. In addition to assisting the principal conductor in concert and opera, the scope of her two-year scholarship also includes conducting her own concert projects together with the academy members of the Berliner Philharmoniker. In March 2022, she conducted the Solidarity Concert for Ukraine with members of the Berlin Philharmonic at the invitation of Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Bellevue Palace. Another highlight is the joint anniversary concert with Kirill Petrenko for the 50th anniversary of the Karajan Academy in May 2022.

Highlights of the current season include her subscription debuts with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, MDR-Sinfonieorchester Leipzig and the Tonkünstler-Orchester Niederösterreich among others. She also regularly conducts the NHK Symphony Orchestra, Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, New Japan Philharmonic, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Japan Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa.

At the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival 2022, the 30th anniversary edition of the festival, Nodoka Okisawa will debut with the Saito Kinen Orchestra conducting W.A. Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro" in a production by Laurent Pelly.

She has attended numerous master classes, amongst others with Neeme and Paavo Järvi and Kurt Masur. In both 2019 and 2020 she was selected for the Riccardo Muti Italian Opera Academy in Tokyo. She gained further experience in the past as assistant conductor of the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa and in opera productions in Japan and Europe. In November 2020, she conducted a production of Lehár's "The Merry Widow" at the Tokyo Niki Opera Theatre.

Born in 1987 in Aomori, Japan, she learned piano, cello and oboe since early childhood. She studied conducting at the Tokyo University of the Arts with Ken Takaseki and Tadaaki Otaka and graduated with a master's degree. In 2019 she obtained her second master's degree at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin under Christian Ehwald and Hans-Dieter Baum. Nodoka Okisawa lives in Berlin.