

Yutaka Sado

conductor

Yutaka Sado is one of the most distinguished Japanese conductors of our time. From 2015 to 2025, he served as Chief Conductor of the Tonkünstler Orchestra in Austria and was subsequently appointed the orchestra's first Honorary Conductor. Since 2023, he has been Music Director of the New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, founded by Seiji Ozawa. As Artistic Director of the Hyogo Performing Arts Center (PAC) and Chief Conductor of the PAC Orchestra, comprising Japanese and international fellows, Sado has played a pivotal role since 2005 in developing the venue into one of Japan's leading cultural institutions. Today, the center attracts approximately 60,000 subscribers to its concert and theatre programmes.

Yutaka Sado enjoys extraordinary public recognition in Japan, not least through a weekly television programme in which he introduced audiences to the world of classical music as both conductor and presenter. For more than twenty years, he has conducted the annual performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony featuring 10,000 choristers in a stadium in Osaka. Known in Japan as "Daiku" ("The Ninth"), this event is produced by Mainichi Broadcasting System (MBS), one of Japan's major radio and television networks, and ranks among the country's most popular classical music events. Sado also tours regularly with his Super Kids Orchestra, an ensemble dedicated to nurturing the most talented schoolchildren from across Japan. In addition, he serves as Artistic Director of the highly acclaimed Siena Wind Orchestra, one of the few professional wind orchestras in the world.

Internationally, Sado has appeared as a guest conductor with the Berlin Philharmonic, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, and the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, as well as with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, SWR Symphony Orchestra, WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, and the Bavarian State Orchestra in Munich. He has conducted the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Dresden Staatskapelle, the Staatskapelle Weimar, the Dresden Philharmonic, the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra, the Bamberg Symphony, the Gürzenich Orchestra Cologne, and the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich. Further engagements have included the Residentie Orkest The Hague, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the London Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic, the Orchestre de Paris, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, and the Orchestre National de France. In Italy, he has conducted the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, the RAI National Symphony Orchestra in Turin, the Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano Giuseppe Verdi, and the Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. Yutaka Sado made his U.S. debut with the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C.

Following several years as assistant to Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa, Yutaka Sado won major conducting awards, including the Grand Prix at the 39th International Competition for Young Conductors in Besançon, France, in 1989, and the Grand Prix of the Leonard Bernstein Competition in 1995. His close association with Bernstein led to his appointment as Conductor in Residence at the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo. In 1990, together with fellow Bernstein protégés, Sado conducted the memorial concert for Leonard Bernstein at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. His international career began with his appointment as Music Director of the Orchestre Lamoureux in Paris, a position he held from 1993 to 2010.

More than fifty recordings document the breadth and versatility of Yutaka Sado's artistic achievements. Releases on the Tonkünstler Orchestra's own label include productions and live recordings from the Vienna Musikverein, among them Richard Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben* and *Der Rosenkavalier* Suite, Haydn's *The Creation* and Symphonies Nos. 4–8, Brahms's Symphony No. 2, Mahler's Symphonies Nos. 1–7, Bruckner's Symphonies Nos. 4, 8, and 9, Sibelius's Symphony No. 2 and *Finlandia*, as well as the orchestral works of Leonard Bernstein.

Current as of 16/06/26 (4,108 characters incl. spaces) – Please contact us if you wish to edit this biography.