

Jakub Hrůša
Chief Conductor

In September 2016 Jakub Hrůša assumed musical direction of the Bamberg Symphony. He is the fifth Chief Conductor in the history of the Orchestra. "I am truly delighted to be Chief Conductor of the Bamberg Symphony", says Jakub Hrůša. "Even before I had a chance to conduct this jewel among European orchestras, I had been a huge admirer. They are an embodiment of orchestral culture, with everything imagined by this term. And with the Orchestra having its origins in Prague, we breathe the same musical air, sharing our cultural backgrounds, being artistically and historically very close. With the Bamberg Symphony, every phrase can turn to be a little miracle, and every concert is a transfiguration."

Born in the Czech Republic and described by Gramophone as 'on the verge of greatness', Jakub Hrůša is also Permanent Guest Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic, Principal Guest Conductor of Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra (TMSO), and served as Music Director and Chief Conductor of PKF–Prague Philharmonia from 2009 to 2015.

He is a regular guest with many of the world's greatest orchestras. Recent highlights have included Bohemian Legends and The Mighty Five – two major series specially devised for the Philharmonia Orchestra; a two-week focus on Martinů and Roussel for Orchestra Philharmonique de Radio France; and performances with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, DSO Berlin, The Philadelphia Orchestra, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. In the season 2015/2016, he made his debuts with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and Filarmonica della Scala and in October 2016 with the Boston Symphony.

The 2016/2017 season sees him make major debuts with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony and the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra.

As a conductor of opera, he has been a regular guest with Glyndebourne Festival, conducting The Cunning Little Vixen, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Carmen, The Turn of the Screw, Don Giovanni and La bohème, and serving as Music Director of Glyndebourne On Tour for three years. Elsewhere he has led productions for Vienna State Opera (a new production of The Makropulos Case), Opéra National de Paris (Rusalka), Frankfurt Opera (Il trittico), Finnish National Opera (Jenůfa), Royal Danish Opera (Boris Godunov), and Prague National Theatre (The Cunning Little Vixen and Rusalka).

As a recording artist, he will embark on a new partnership in the coming seasons with Tudor and the Bamberg Symphony. Coinciding with the start of his tenure as Chief Conductor, his latest disc, Smetana's Má vlast with Bamberg Symphony, is released in autumn 2016. He has also released six discs for Supraphon including a live recording of Smetana's Má vlast from the Prague Spring Festival. He has made live recordings of Berlioz's Symphonie fantastique, Strauss's Eine Alpensinfonie and Suk's Asrael Symphony with TMSO for Octavia Records; and other recordings include the Tchaikovsky and Bruch violin concertos with Nicola Benedetti and the Czech Philharmonic (Universal), and a series of three discs with PKF-Prague Philharmonia for Pentatone, including orchestral works by Dvořák, and cello concertos with Johannes Moser.

Jakub Hrůša studied conducting at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, where he now lives with his wife and two children. He is currently President of the International Martinů Circle. In 2015 he was the inaugural recipient of the Sir Charles Mackerras Prize.