

The Bamberg Symphony Orchestra announce the appointment of Manfred Honeck as honorary conductor

Bamberg, 3 November 2023 - Conductor Manfred Honeck has been a regular guest at the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra for 32 years. On Saturday, as part of the upcoming concerts in Bamberg, the orchestra will appoint him Honorary Conductor. This makes Manfred Honeck - after Eugen Jochum, Horst Stein, Herbert Blomstedt and Christoph Eschenbach - the fifth conductor to receive this honour.

Honorary conductors rightly deserve a special place in the chronicle of an orchestra. For it is not uncommon for them to stand for an entire era, having a great impact on the orchestra's reputation beyond their tenure.

Manfred Honeck's collaboration with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra began in the 1980s, just at the start of his conducting career. He also made his first ever CD recordings in Bamberg in the early 1990s. Here is what Manfred Honeck had to say about his relationship with the orchestra: *"I look back with gratitude on the many years in which I have worked with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra time and again. They supported me significantly even as a young conductor, which still means a lot to me. I hold the orchestra and its quality in the highest regard, and it always gives me great pleasure to make music together. I am honoured to be able to join the illustrious circle of honorary conductors as 'Benjamin'."*

Since then, there have been a total of 109 joint concerts, most of them in Bamberg. The Bamberg Symphony Orchestra can also be heard regularly at the International Wolfegg Concerts, of which Manfred Honeck is Artistic Director.

With the title of Honorary Conductor, the orchestra would like to officially honour, further develop, and intensify the very fruitful, decade-long partnership with Manfred Honeck. He will soon be a guest in Bamberg again (11/12 November 2023), further guest performances with the orchestra as well as joint CD productions are also being planned. Already in November, a new album of Mozart piano concertos will be recorded together with pianist Jan Lisiecki.

Manfred Honeck is regarded as one of the world's leading conductors, whose distinctive and pioneering interpretations are widely acclaimed internationally. As Music Director of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, he is already in his sixteenth season.

The Bamberg Symphony Orchestra is the only orchestra with a global reputation that is not based in a vibrant metropolis. The orchestra's "magnetic effect" goes above all beyond the frontier of Bavaria: since 1946, they have been delighting audiences worldwide with their characteristically dark, round and radiant sound. With almost 7,500 concerts in over 500 cities and 63 countries, they are cultural ambassadors for Bavaria and all of Germany. The fifth and current principal conductor of the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra is the Czech Jakub Hrůša, a position he has held since 2016. Together they have received numerous awards, ultimately Hrůša was named "Conductor of the Year" at OPUS KLASSIK 2023.