

GABRIEL BEBEȘELEA, conductor

Gabriel Bebeșelea is the Principal Conductor of the "Transylvania" State Philharmonic Orchestra of Cluj-Napoca, a position he assumed at the beginning of the 2016/17 season. The 2020/21 season marks the start of Bebeșelea's tenure as Chief Conductor of the Philharmonic of North Macedonia.

Admired for his enthusiasm and musicality, Gabriel Bebeșelea enjoys a vibrant career leading internationally acclaimed ensembles including the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Barcelona Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia and the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia "Evgeny Svetlanov".

Highlights of the 2020/21 season include his debuts with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Marseille and the Orchestre National de Lille as well as returns to the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia, the Bochumer Symphoniker, Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava and the Ulster Orchestra.

With the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, he recorded a CD featuring George Enescu's rediscovered oratorio "Strigoi" (The Ghosts) and his "Pastorale - Fantaisie pour petite orchestre" (edition curated by Gabriel Bebeșelea). The CD was released under the label Capriccio in September 2018.

Born in 1987, Gabriel Bebeșelea is recognized as "one of the most gifted conductors born in the last decades in Romania" (George Enescu Festival Journal, September 7th 2011) and is winner of the first prize of the "Lovro von Matačić" Conducting Competition (Zagreb 2015) and the first prize in the "Jeunesses Musicales" Conducting Competition (Bucharest 2011). Gabriel Bebeșelea was semifinalist of the "Donatella Flick" Conducting Competition of the London Symphony Orchestra in 2014 and semifinalist of the Gustav Mahler Competition of the Bamberg Symphony in 2016.

A notable opera conductor, Bebeșelea was named Principal Conductor of the Romanian National Opera of Iași in 2011, becoming the youngest ever Principal Conductor in Romania. In 2015 he was named Principal Conductor of the National Romanian Opera House of Cluj-Napoca. In 2014 he was presented with the "Best Conductor" award at the Romanian National Opera Houses Awards.

Gabriel Bebeșelea is known to devote himself to researching and rediscovering music and he is responsible for uncovering several long forgotten or neglected musical masterpieces. In 2017, to bring such music to light, he founded the ensemble Musica Ricercata - an international artistic collective dedicated to the historically informed performance of music spanning from the baroque to modern eras, with an emphasis on early music.

In 2015, Gabriel Bebeșelea studied with two of the world's most appreciated conductors: Bernard Haitink at the Lucerne Festival at Easter and with Kurt Masur at the Aurora Classical Festival.

Furthermore, in 2011 he was awarded a scholarship consisting of an internship at the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, where he had the possibility to assist at the rehearsals and concerts of some of the most representative conductors nowadays: Mariss Jansons, Bernard Haitink, Herbert Blomstedt, Christoph von Dohnanyi, Philippe Herreweghe, David Zinman and Eliahu Inbal.

In 2010 he graduated with "summa cum laude" from the Cluj-Napoca Music Academy with a Bachelor's Degree in Orchestral Conducting as a pupil of Petre Sbarcea. Two years later he graduated the Master's Degree Program of the National University of Music Bucharest as a student of Horia Andreescu's Orchestra Conducting Class.

In 2018, Gabriel Bebeșelea obtained his PhD with "summa cum laude" at the National University of Music Bucharest for his Doctoral thesis "The Research of the Compositional Manuscripts, Premise and Stake of the Conducting Interpretation" under the guidance of Prof. Dan Dediu.

He currently resides in Vienna where he graduated the Postgraduate Studies at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, at the class of Prof. Mark Stringer.

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