

KAZEM ABDULLAH
CONDUCTOR

Biography
Winter/Spring 2012

A vibrant, versatile and compelling presence on the podium, American conductor Kazem Abdullah is one of the most watched up-and-coming talents on the international stage today. He assumes the post of Generalmusikdirektor of the City of Aachen, Germany, in August 2012, and will lead both the orchestral and operatic seasons. His predecessors in this tradition-rich post include Fritz Busch, Herbert von Karajan, and Wolfgang Sawallisch.

A passionate advocate of new music as well as established repertoire, Maestro Abdullah continues to develop relationships with national and international orchestras and opera houses. Among his orchestral credits are the Berliner Kammerphilharmonie, Philharmonisches Orchester der Stadt Nürnberg, Staatskapelle Weimar, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Orquesta Filarmónica de la Ciudad de México, Oregon Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Huntsville Symphony, Dayton Philharmonic, Napa Valley Symphony, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta, and the National Arts Center Orchestra of Ottawa. Of special note are three acclaimed orchestral engagements from the 2009-10 season: leading the Orquestra de São Paulo, one of Brazil's most celebrated classical music ensembles, on its third United States coast-to-coast tour, conducting the New World Symphony's 2009 Ives Festival. at by special invitation from Michael Tilson Thomas, and substituting on very short notice to conduct the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra in performances of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in collaboration with the Mark Morris Dance Group. In the opera arena, Maestro Abdullah has guested with such esteemed companies as the Atlanta Opera, where he conducted *Così fan tutte*, and the Théâtre du Châtelet de Paris, where he led sold-out performances of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*. Mr. Abdullah made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 2009 conducting *Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice*. The New York Times lauded this first performance at the Metropolitan Opera as "...a confident performance... impressively responsive to the singers during their long stretches of orchestra-accompanied recitative."

During the 2011-2012 season, Maestro Abdullah's guest conducting includes performances in Germany and the United States. Earlier appearances this past fall included the Michigan Opera Theater, Sinfonieorchester Aachen, and the Rochester Philharmonic. Upcoming engagements include the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (Houston, TX), the Philharmonisches Orchester der Stadt Nürnberg and a return to Indianapolis for a reengagement with Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

Born in Indiana, Kazem Abdullah began his music studies at the age of ten. He graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, with a Bachelor of Music in Clarinet. He then studied at The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University before joining The New World Symphony as a clarinetist under Michael Tilson Thomas for two seasons, after which he continued his musical studies at the University of Southern California. Mr. Abdullah served as Assistant Conductor at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, a three-year post to which he was appointed by Music Director James Levine. In addition to Levine, while at the Met he worked with conductors such as Louis Langree, Kirill Petrenko, Lorin Maazel, and Fabio Luisi. A recipient of a prestigious 2010 Solti Foundation U.S *Career Assistance Award*, Abdullah was named #4 by *The Daily Beast* on its 2009 list of "Young Rock Stars of the Conducting World." Mr. Abdullah's conducting teachers include Jorma Panula, Gustav Meier, Stefan Asbury, Bernard Haitink, and James Levine.

For more information on Maestro Abdullah, to download publicity photos, view his calendar and other materials, please visit his website at www.kazemabdullah.com.

Management:

North America: Columbia Artist Management, LLC.
Tim Fox, President
1790 Broadway, New York, NY USA 10019-1412
T: 212.842.9571; Email: tfox@cami.com

Europe: Vermont Classics
Till Janczukowicz
Reinhardtstrasse 47, D-10117 Berlin, Germany
T: +49.30.20648078; Email: info@vermont-classics.com

This biography is current as of January 2012. Please discard any obsolete, older versions and refer only to this version.