



Sächsische Staatskapelle

Dresden

Matthias Claudi

PR und Marketing

T 0351 4911 380

F 0351 4911 328

matthias.claudi@staatskapelle-dresden.de

## **Myung-Whun Chung**

Principal Guest Conductor of the Staatskapelle Dresden

Since the 2012 / 2013 season Myung-Whun Chung has been the first artist in the history of the Staatskapelle to hold the title of Principal Guest Conductor. This South Korean maestro has conducted many symphony concerts in the Semperoper since his debut here in November 2001. He has also directed a new production of Verdi's »Don Carlo« from the orchestral pit and has accompanied the Kapelle on tours through Europe, to the USA and Asia.

In addition to his work on the conductor's rostrum, Myung-Whun Chung frequently performs as a chamber musician with Kapelle players, most recently at the Salzburg Easter Festival in 2013 when he wore two musical hats as conductor and chamber musician at Kapelle concerts. Chung launched his Dresden Mahler cycle in the 2012 / 2013 season with the composer's First Symphony, continuing with the Second, Fourth, Sixth and Ninth Symphonies. In the upcoming season he will conduct the Symphony No. 5.

Born in Seoul, Myung-Whun Chung began his career as a pianist, in 1974 taking 2nd prize at the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. In 1979 he became an assistant to Carlo Maria Giulini at the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and later directed the Saarbrücken Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Opéra Bastille in Paris and the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome. From 2000 to 2015 he was Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, while at the same time contributing to the musical life of his home country in various functions. For example he was Artistic Director of the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra as well as the Asia Philharmonic Orchestra, an ensemble which brings together Asian musicians from the world's leading orchestras for special concert projects. During his career Myung-Whun Chung has collaborated with virtually all of the great orchestras. His catalogue of CDs with Deutsche Grammophon features many prize-winning recordings.

In addition to his musical activities, he is highly committed to various humanitarian and ecological causes. He was an Ambassador of the UN Drug Control Programme and in 1995 was honoured as UNESCO's »Man of the Year«. In 1996 he received the Kumkuan, the highest cultural award of South Korea. He has been appointed the first Cultural Ambassador of his country, and in 2008 became a »Goodwill Ambassador« for UNICEF, the first conductor to hold this position.