



Ekhart Wycik | Foto: Stefan Preuhs

## EKHART WYCIK IS THE NEW PROFESSOR FOR CONDUCTING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MUSIC FRANZ LISZT WEIMAR

The winter semester of 2016/17 has brought significant personnel changes to the internationally renowned Weimar conducting school at the University of Music FRANZ LISZT Weimar. The long-standing teaching contracts with General Music Director Markus L. Frank, Music Director Martin Hoff and the emeritus Professor Gunter Kahlert expired, and in their place a second professor position was put into place. The new member of the team at the **Department of Conducting and Opera Coaching**, who will join Prof. Nicolás Pasquet, is **Prof. Ekhart Wycik**, who was the deputy General Music Director at the Dortmund Theatre until 2010 and has conducted at various international operas and concert halls since then.

The emphasis of the new position now occupied by Prof. Wycik is music theatre. The repertoire he has gained during his 25 years of conducting experience encompasses **over 70 works**, including all the great Mozart and Verdi operas, Strauss, Wagner, Puccini and Stravinsky. In 2016 he conducted in Athens and Riga, had a guest appearance with "Fidelio" in Florida and opened the "Impuls-Festival" in Halle last October, conducting works by Leonard Bernstein and Fazil Say. Ekhart Wycik has gained teaching experience at the music conservatories in Saarbrücken, Cologne and Düsseldorf and was the guest professor for the rehearsals and performance of the "Rosenkavalier" at Indiana University in Bloomington (USA).

"It is not only an honour but also a commitment to work at the Weimar University of Music in the tradition of Franz Liszt," Prof. Ekhart Wycik enthusiastically characterised his new position in Weimar. The work on

the conducting team at the institute involves very close collaboration. We all have the common goal "to allow the best to unfold in the students entrusted to us," Wycik continues, who is looking forward to teaching and working with the various ensembles at the university. Thus, his **teaching motto** is not "teacher, fill me up!" but rather "teacher, guide me there!"

And that is not all the good news in Ekhart Wycik's career: just before Christmas, his first **book, "Zauberflöte - die unbekante Bekante. Freimaurerische Symbole, Struktur und Musik in Mozarts letzter Oper"** ("The Magic Flute - the Unknown Acquaintance. Free Mason symbols, structure and music in Mozart's last opera") was published by the Salier Verlag. He researched this topic for over three decades and frequently receives invitations to give lectures on the subject.

**Ekhart Wycik** concluded his studies of conducting, musicology and philosophy in Düsseldorf and Vienna with honours. His education was enriched by studies and master classes with Heinz Rögner (Leipzig), Rolf Reuter (Berlin), Sergiu Celibidache (Munich) and Leif Segerstam (Helsinki). He was a finalist at the Vienna Master Classes and conducted the finals concerts at the Furtwängler Conductors' Workshop in Mürzzuschlag (Austria).

Wycik won a prize at the "Bielefelder Operntaler" and has received several scholarships from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) and the Richard-Wagner-Verband. He was assistant conductor at the Opera Festivals in Verona and Erl (Tyrol). Beginning in 1993, Wycik received financial support from the Conductors' Forum of the Deutscher Musikrat and received the sponsorship prize at the International Furtwängler Conductors' Workshop in Mürzzuschlag (Austria). Wycik conducted concert performances with the DSO Berlin, the Staatskapelle Halle, the Staatsorchester Rheinische Philharmonie, the Berlin Symphoniker, the Bochum Symphoniker, and with orchestras in Austria, Hungary, Italy, Greece, the UK and the USA.

Wycik's British opera debut at the Scottish Opera was among the "Top Ten UK Productions" in 2012 according to the "Guardian"; his Italian opera debut, "Hansel and Gretel" at the Teatro Comunale di Bolzano, was chosen as one of the best productions in Europe by the specialist magazine "operaclick". He returned to Bolzano in January 2014 to conduct "The Magic Flute" and was invited back to conduct symphony concerts there in 2014 and 2016. After his celebrated debut at the Sarasota Opera in Florida (USA) with Rimsky-Korsakov's "The Golden Cockerel", he was immediately invited to return and conduct Beethoven's "Fidelio" in 2016.

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