

Marin Alsop to open her first season as Chief Conductor of the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, 24 October



Marin Alsop begins her tenure with two weeks of concerts, masterclasses, talks and workshops

Marin Alsop begins her tenure as Chief Conductor of the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra in September on 24 October when she conducts the opening concert of the Vienna RSO's subscription series at the Wiener Konzerthaus.

Alsop is celebrated as one of the leading conductors of our time and one who has been a pioneer for greater opportunities for women conductors. Alsop becomes the first woman to take up the prestigious role of Chief Conductor of Vienna RSO and is also the first woman to be appointed head of major American, British and South American orchestras. She made history when she became the first woman to conduct the Last Night of the BBC Proms in 2013.

Alsop's appointment in Vienna is the result of her being unanimously put forward by the musicians as their new Chief Conductor after she last guest conducted the Orchestra. She will be with the Vienna RSO for an initial period of three years, conducting concerts, operas, tours, broadcasts and recordings.

Widely celebrated for the range of her repertoire and a refusal to accept the routine, Alsop's opening concerts are no exception. Her first concert [24 October] features a world premiere by Lera Auerbach, *Eve's Lament – O Flowers, That Never Will Grow*, alongside Hindemith's rarely performed one-act opera *Sancta Susanna* and his symphony *Mathis der Maler*. The following week, Alsop and the Vienna RSO open the Wien Modern Festival with a performance of Agata Zubel's *Fireworks* and Clara Iannotta's *Moult* alongside works by Peter Ablinger and Jon Leifs. They are joined by The Swingle Singers to perform Berio's *Sinfonia* [31 October].

Marin Alsop said:

"Vienna is a musical city like no other and was central to the careers of two of my idols – Mahler and Bernstein, both of whose music I have conducted with this Orchestra. I am excited to get

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started with the Vienna RSO this autumn and to work with these great musicians on a wide range of concert repertoire, including world premieres, as well as many recordings, tours and education initiatives that we're discussing."

In many ways Alsop is Leonard Bernstein's heir, including her commitment to teaching, utilising the latest technological advances of our time, live-streaming and broadcasting. Her time in Vienna is no exception as her first two weeks with Vienna RSO see her not only perform a number of concerts, but also talks, workshops and masterclasses.

In 2002 Alsop founded the Taki Concordia Fellowship to promote and nurture the careers of emerging female conductors and will continue her work in this field in Vienna with three days of workshops for women conductors in collaboration with the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (MDW). For the workshops and masterclasses, Alsop will be joined by the legendary Sylvia Caduff, the first female pupil of Herbert von Karajan, first female conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and first woman to win first-place in the Dimitri Mitropoulos International Competition (1966), an achievement that gained her an assistantship to Leonard Bernstein at the New York Philharmonic who she also became the first woman to conduct [1-3 November].

On 30 October Marin Alsop will be part of a panel discussion called 'Gender Equality in music, ten years from now' alongside Christoph Becher (Vienna RSO Orchestra Director), Patricio Canete-Schreger (Head of Unit Music at the City Council for Cultural Affairs and Science), Ulrike Sych (Rector of MDW) and composer Agata Zubel. The panel discussion, taking place at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, will be presented by Renata Schmidtkunz (Ö1 journalist). The panel will discuss what facilitates the careers of female conductors and composers and what steps need to be put in place to help the industry work towards a goal of 50/50 gender parity in the future. In Alsop's first season, five out of six concerts in the Vienna RSO's subscription series in the Wiener Konzerthaus will be conducted by women. On 28 & 29 October, composers Angélica Castelló, Clara Ianotta, Mirela Ivičević and Agata Zubel will present careers lectures to the MDW students.

- ENDS -

For further press information please contact:
Rebecca Johns | 020 7292 7336 | Rebecca.johns@premiercomms.com

Notes to editor

Marin Alsop

Marin Alsop is an inspiring and powerful voice, a conductor of vision and distinction who passionately believes that "music has the power to change lives". She is recognised internationally for her innovative approach to programming and audience development, for her deep commitment to education and advocating for music's importance in the world.

From the 2019/20 season, Alsop becomes Chief Conductor of the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra (Vienna RSO), performing in their main series at the Wiener Konzerthaus and Wiener Musikverein, recording, broadcasting, and touring nationally and internationally. Her first season coincides with the orchestra's 50th anniversary and will emphasize women in classical music.

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Her outstanding success as Music Director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) since 2007 has resulted in two extensions in her tenure until 2021. Alsop has led the orchestra on its first European tour in 13 years and created several bold initiatives including Orchkids, for the city's most disadvantaged young people. At the end of 2019, following a seven-year tenure as Music Director, she becomes Conductor of Honour of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra (OSESP), where she will return to conduct major projects each season.

Throughout 2020, Alsop launches a global project to mark Beethoven's 250th anniversary, in collaboration with Carnegie Hall. Her goal is to bring the messages of tolerance, unity and joy in Beethoven's 9th Symphony to life for our 21st Century. She will conduct reimagined performances of Beethoven's ninth symphony on five continents, with newly commissioned texts and music. Partners including the Vienna RSO, BSO, OSESP, Sydney and New Zealand symphonies, Johannesburg and Kwazulu-Natal philharmonics and Southbank Centre, where she is Associate Artist.

Marin Alsop conducts the world's major orchestras, including the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, Budapest Festival and Royal Concertgebouw orchestras, Filarmonica della Scala, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and has long-standing relationships with the London Symphony Orchestra and London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO), where she returns this season. Further highlights of the 2019/20 season include the Orchestre de Paris, Danish National Symphony and Philadelphia orchestras. In the US, she also regularly conducts the Cleveland and Chicago Symphony orchestras and leads multiple projects each year at the Ravinia Festival.

Her extensive discography has led to multiple Gramophone awards and includes highly praised Naxos cycles of Brahms with the LPO, Dvořák with the BSO, Prokofiev with OSESP, and further recordings for Decca, Harmonia Mundi and Sony Classical. She is dedicated to new music, demonstrated in her 25-year tenure as Music Director of California's Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music.

In 2019 Alsop was awarded the Crystal Award from the World Economic Forum, is the only conductor to receive the MacArthur Fellowship and, in September 2013, made history as the first female conductor of the BBC's Last Night of the Proms. Amongst many other awards and academic positions, she is Director of Graduate Conducting at the Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute. She attended the Juilliard School and Yale University, where she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in 2017. Her conducting career was launched in 1989, when she was the first woman to be awarded Tanglewood's Koussevitzky Conducting Prize and began studying with her closest mentor, Leonard Bernstein.

www.marinalsop.com

Vienna RSO

The RSO is one of the most versatile orchestras in Austria and also internationally in great demand. Its repertoire is extraordinary: the Orchestra is specialised in contemporary music and also at home in the classical repertoire, opera and film music. More information is available

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at <https://rso.orf.at/en/rsowien>.

24 October 2019

Wiener Konzerthaus, 19:30

Marin Alsop *conductor*

Kateryna Sokolova *director*

Aušrinė Stundytė *soprano*

Renée Morloc *alto*

Annette Schön Müller *soprano / mezzo-soprano*

Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra

Ladies of the Vienna Singing Academy

Chris Rouse Rapture

Lera Auerbach Eve's Lament – O Flowers, That Never Will Grow (world premiere)

Paul Hindemith Symphony from Mathis the painter

Paul Hindemith Sancta Susanna

28 October 2019

University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, 18:00

Composer career lecture with Angélica Castelló and Clara Ianotta

29 October 2019

University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, 18:00

Composer career lecture with Mirela Ivičević and Agata Zubel

30 October 2019

University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

'Gender equality in music, ten years from now' panel discussion

Renata Schmidtkunz (Ö1 journalist) *chair*

Christoph Becher (RSO Orchestra Director)

Patricio Canete-Schreger (Head of Unit Music at the City Council for Cultural Affairs and Science)

Ulrike Sych (Rector of MDW)

Agata Zubel (composer)

31 October 2019

Wiener Konzerthaus, 19:30

Marin Alsop *conductor*

The Swingles

Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra

Agata Zubel Fireworks

Peter Ablinger 4 White for Orchestra and Rauschen

Clara Iannotta Moults

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Luciano Berio Sinfonia for 8 voices and orchestra
Jón Leifs Hekla op. 52

1-3 November 2019

University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna

Workshops and masterclasses by Marin Alsop and Sylvia Caduff for female student conductors,
open to a public audience.

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