

Phone/Fax: Singapore新加坡 +65 6778-7032, Cell: 9467 8550

Taiwan台北+886(02)2927-0113 / USA美國(330)990-6149

E-mail: YAHWANG@AOL.COM

Biography of Ya-Hui Wang, Conductor

Revised February 2010

International Edition

Please destroy any previous materials

Ya-Hui Wang, conductor Biography

Acclaimed as "spirited" and "dynamic," yet full of "lyricism and poetry," Ya-Hui Wang has brought her rare gift for communicating passionately with both the orchestra and the public to concert halls across America, Europe and Asia. Her focused, intelligent musicianship, along with the maturity and quiet confidence she displays, has earned her international respect in a field traditionally dominated by men.

Ya-Hui Wang is currently Music Director and Conductor, Associate Professor at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music of the National University of Singapore (a collaboration with the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, USA). Past appointments include Assistant Conductor of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, where she was also Music Director of the Detroit Symphony's Civic Orchestra, Music Director of the Evergreen Symphony (Taiwan), Akron Symphony Orchestra (Ohio), Fort Smith Symphony (Arkansas), the Omaha Nebraska Youth Orchestras and Principal Conductor of the Chicago Encore Chamber Orchestra. In the summer of 2000, she joined the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan, as their Associate Conductor. As Music Director of the Evergreen and Akron Symphony Orchestras, Wang drew praise for the quality of her performances as well as for the creative range of her programming and her commitment to community outreach; in 2002 she was named one of Crain's Cleveland Business "40 under 40" leaders in the USA. Under her outstanding leadership, the Evergreen Symphony received critical acclaim and enjoyed sold-out performances in its debut concert tours to China, Japan and Singapore. In 2008, she served as Music Director of the Academies Festival Orchestra for the IMG Sun Festival, held in Singapore, where she also organized an international conducting masterclass with Esa-Pekka Salonen. This season 2009-10, she conducted Puccini's *La Boheme* with the Singapore Lyric Opera and the charity concerts CHILDAID which open the new Sentosa Resort World IR (Integrated Resorts) in Singapore, and was distinguished guest speaker at the International Conductors Guild Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark.

A significant figure in the international music scene, Maestro Wang has appeared as guest conductor with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Opera [Renée Fleming Gala], Naples Philharmonic (Florida), Erie (Pennsylvania) Philharmonic and Lexington (Kentucky) Philharmonic, Danish National Radio Symphony, Århus, Ålborg and Odense Symphony Orchestras in Denmark, Tampere Philharmonic in Finland, National, Evergreen and National State Symphony Orchestras in Taiwan, Hanoi Philharmonic in Vietnam, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Lyric Opera and the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra. Wang made her debut appearance at the Royal Danish Theater in Copenhagen under the patronage of Queen Margarathe II of Denmark and led the Royal Danish Orchestra and Ballet on a national tour of Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* in January 2000. In August of 1999, she was invited to assist and conduct her first opera, Strauss' *Salome*, with the Danish National Opera. She returned in 2002 to conduct twenty-two performances of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* all over Denmark, working with their major orchestras: Copenhagen Philharmonic, Århus, Ålborg, Odense and Sonderjyllands Symphonies.

Maestro Wang has been privileged to collaborate with world renowned artists, including, cellist Janos Starker, flutist Peter-Lukas Graf, guitarist Christopher Parkening, pianists Pascal Roge and Victor Borge, violinists Zakhar Bron, Jaime Laredo, Cho Liang Lin, Elmar Oliveira and Isabelle Van Keulen, and Grammy Award winner and opera superstar, soprano Renée Fleming on her concerts in the USA and Asia, at Fleming's request. Ya-Hui Wang's stirring musical interpretations have been heard around and, literally, above the world: she recently conducted the film music to **Ilha Formosa**, a joint production by the Taiwan Tourism Board and EVA Airways, now playing on all international EVA Air flights.

Born in Taiwan, Ya-Hui Wang grew up in Singapore and went to the United States in 1986 to further her music education, which was fully funded by a scholarship from Dr. Yung-Fa Chang, Chairman and founder of the Evergreen Group. She received undergraduate and graduate degrees in piano performance and conducting from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, where her teachers included Otto-Werner Mueller and Frederik Prausnitz. Wang received international recognition by taking top prizes in three prestigious international conducting competitions: the 1998 Nicolai Malko Competition in Copenhagen, Denmark; the 1996 Dimitri Mitropoulos Competition in Athens, Greece; and the 1994 Tokyo Competition in Japan. Among her other impressive achievements was her appointment, in 1995, as Apprentice Conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with then Music Director Daniel Barenboim. Barenboim personally selected Wang for this prestigious conductor-mentoring program, citing her "immensely impressive background and conducting talents" as the reason for his choice. Those immense talents and her personal flair continue to enthral audiences and bring to life the heart of orchestral music in a way that has proven Ya-Hui Wang's place in her field.

CONDUCTING POSITIONS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore Music Director/Associate Professor | 2006-present |
| Evergreen Symphony Orchestra, Taipei, Taiwan Music Director & Principal Conductor | 2004-2007 |
| Akron Symphony Orchestra, Ohio Music Director | 2000-2005 |
| Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Michigan Assistant Conductor | 1997-1999 |
| Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra, Michigan Music Director | 1997-1999 |
| Chicago Encore Chamber Orchestra, Illinois Principal Guest Conductor | 1998-2000 |
| Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Illinois Apprentice Conductor | 1995-1997 |
| Fort Smith Symphony, Arkansas Music Director | 1996-1997 |
| Omaha Youth Orchestras, Nebraska Music Director | 1993-1996 |

GUEST CONDUCTING

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Ålborg Symphony Orchestra, Denmark | 2001, 2002 |
| Århus Symphony Orchestra, Denmark | 1998, 1999, 2002 |
| Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Maryland | 1995(2x), 96 |
| Baltimore Opera, Maryland <i>Renée Fleming Gala</i> | 2007 |
| Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Denmark | 1998 |
| Danish National Opera, Denmark <i>Salome, 1999 Madama Butterfly, 2002</i> | 1999, 2002 |
| Erie Philharmonic, Pennsylvania | 1999 |
| Evergreen Symphony Orchestra | 2003-2008 |
| Hanoi Philharmonic, Vietnam | 2008 |
| Lexington Philharmonic, Kentucky | 1997 |
| Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Malaysia | 2000 |
| Naples Philharmonic, Florida | 1997, 98(3x) |
| National Symphony Orchestra, Taiwan | 1997, 1999 |
| Odense Symphony Orchestra, Denmark | 1999, 2002 |
| Royal Danish Theatre (Ballet & Orchestra), Denmark | 2000-2001 |
| Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore | 1995, 96, 1997(2x), 2008 |
| Singapore Lyric Opera, Singapore | 2010 |
| Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra, Finland | 1999, 2000 |

OTHER EXPERIENCE AND AWARDS

| | |
|--|---------------|
| International Conductors Guild Conference Distinguished Speaker | January 2010 |
| Crain's Cleveland Business "40 under 40" Leader | 2002 |
| Nicolai Malko International Conducting Competition, Denmark Second Prize | May 1998 |
| Dimitris Mitropoulos International Competition, Greece Fourth Prize | November 1996 |
| Tokyo International Competition for Conducting, Japan Hideo Saito Award | July 1994 |

EDUCATION

| | |
|--|-----------|
| The Curtis Institute Of Music, Philadelphia Artist Diploma in Orchestral Conducting | 1991-1993 |
| Peabody Conservatory of Music, Maryland Masters & Bachelor of Music degrees in Piano Performance | 1986-1992 |

Review Excerpts

AAMULEHTI (FINLAND)

"The stylish interpretations of Ya-Hui Wang made the thesis of Jorma Panula and Leif Segerstam's opinions on female conductors to shame"

HELSINGIN SANOMAT (FINLAND)

"Ya-Hui Wang conducted the Mahler First Symphony opening movement with a stunning crescendo to the end, and with the happiness of music-making on her face... Wang also possesses a natural, also feminine charm in the music. The Radio Symphony Orchestra is completely sold in her hands. The whole structure never disappeared as she varied the balance of sounds and dynamics. Her beat is flexible, meaningful, controlled and precise."

POLITIKEN (DENMARK)

"Her way of conducting has an interesting duality: The delicate lady exercises her authority through an unusual precise, differential expressive technique - generous but awesome discipline with an aura of iron will. At the same time she communicates a physical spontaneity which brings the heavy symphonic mechanism into progress in an irresistible, organic floating process that seems to come directly from the midriff."

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU (GERMANY)

"Miss Wang's spontaneous musicianship, full of intensity, was refreshing and personal throughout."

LE MONDE DE LA MUSIQUE (FRANCE)

"She conducts by heart...with a natural and spontaneous style that none of the other candidates ranked before her had...and brought out the most of the Orchestra of Colors."

DAS ORCHESTER (GERMANY)

"When she finished, there was a long lasting stormy applause, which seemed to anticipate the result of the Competition. Her fresh, unconventional style of conducting impressed spontaneously...She is the only candidate that displayed her own 'signature' and she was the youngest of the finalists.

AARHUS STIFTSTIDENDE (DENMARK)

"She is a real conductor - in the sense that in addition to her technical ability, she possesses willpower. For Ya-Hui Wang, this comes naturally and in harmony with her experience that can develop to a high level in a business that is profoundly dominated by males."

JYLLANDS POSTEN (DENMARK)

Ya-Hui Wang has a very intriguing way of conducting. She conducted in an expressive way and thus she painted her interpretation of Dvorak's ninth symphony "from the new world".

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER (OHIO, USA)

"vibrant, colorful performances of four demanding pieces....Ya-Hui Wang offered works that signaled her determination to travel a varied and challenging route as the ensemble's music

Review Excerpts (2)

BALTIMORE SUN (BALTIMORE, USA)

"Ya-Hui Wang, who studied at Peabody Institute and enjoys a global career, did her best to keep the Baltimore Opera Orchestra on (Renée) Fleming's wavelength. The playing achieved admirable cohesion and sheen in spots, both when accompanying the singer and offering on its own such favorites as Borodin's Polovtsian Dances and Bernstein's Candide Overture."

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL (OHIO, USA)

"It was Carl Nielsen's fourth symphony, not his first, that has the nickname Inextinguishable. But Ya-Hui Wang pressed the [Akron Symphony Orchestra] with an insistence worthy of that subtitle. Wang's feverish claim to "Allegro con fuoco" – fast, with fire - in the final movement of Nielsen's First Symphony was the most readily defined aspect of her performance."

LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER (KENTUCKY, USA)

"Wang's conducting style reminds me of an Tai Chi master, using an ancient martial art not only as a weapon to forcefully carve an impression, but as a gentle caress of the surrounding space, radiating inner peace.

THE STRAITS TIME (SINGAPORE)

"Under Wang, the [Singapore Symphony Orchestra] became a refined and controlled instrument, yet without any sacrifice of power and energy. You could be guaranteed that she will take you through any musical turmoil unscathed."