

BIOGRAPHY

Anja Bihlmaier's strong musical instinct and natural leadership have propelled her to rise fast amongst the ranks of emerging conductors both on the symphonic and operatic stages.

From August 2021 the German conductor assumes the position of **Chief Conductor of the Residentie Orkest, The Hague** and from August 2020 she becomes **Principal Guest Conductor** of the **Lahti Symphony Orchestra**.

Bihlmaier's early positions at the Staatsoper Hannover and Theater Chemnitz afforded many opportunities to conduct opera productions including Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin, Bizet Carmen, Massenet Werther, Mozart Le Nozze di Figaro and Dvořák Rusalka. With her appointment as 1st Kapellmeisterin and Deputy Music Director of the Staatstheater Kassel (2015 – 2018) she conducted a number of subscription concerts including Mahler Das Lied von der Erde in addition to opera productions. Last season she conducted Gounod Faust with Trondheim Opera and has been invited to conduct a number of productions at Volksoper Wien.

With repertoire ranging from Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Schumann to Kodály, Bartók, Tchaikovsky, Louise Farrenc and Mikko Heiniö, Anja Bihlmaier has recently conducted the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Bremen Philharmonic and NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover whilst outside her native Germany she has lead the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Gothenburg Symphony, Malmö Symphony, Lahti Symphony, Tapiola Sinfonietta, Trondheim Symphony, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, L'Orchestre Teatro Massimo Bellini and Toledo Symphony.

The 19/20 season sees Anja Bihlmaier's Japanese debut with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra alongside engagements with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern, Lahti Symphony, Tampere Philharmonic and Sinfonieorchester St Gallen. In the pit she conducts Carmen and Die Fledermaus for Volksoper Wien and Benjamin Britten A Midsummer Night's Dream for Malmö Opera.

Following studies at the Freiburg Conservatory of Music with Scott Sandmeier, Anja Bihlmaier won a scholarship to study with Dennis Russell Davies and Jorge Rotter at the Salzburg Mozarteum and attended masterclasses with Sian Edwards, Peter Gülke, Günther Herbig and Jac van Steen. She won further scholarships from the Johannes Brahms Foundation and was admitted into the Deutsche Dirigentenforum in 2005. In 2006 she was awarded third prize at the International Dimitris Mitropoulos Competition and was a finalist at the 2008 Donatella Flick Competition in London.