



3 questions for our musical director Gustavo Gimeno



What were the highlights of the last five years?

It is very difficult to pick only a few highlights as we've had over 100 concerts together and shared many wonderful moments. I still remember the concert with Anja Harteros in September 2015 which was my first concert as music director of the OPL. We were also able to work with her regularly, realizing amazing projects. The *Verdi Requiem* in 2016 is also a concert I remember fondly. It was a special honour that Daniel Barenboim expressed the wish to play together with the OPL under my baton. With the "Kinnekwiss loves" concert last year, I was able to fulfill a personal wish. It was very inspiring to be on stage together with such a charismatic artist as Bryn Terfel. The last five

years have also taken us to many European cities. And the South America tour was undoubtedly very special. Not only because we played in one of the most extraordinary halls in the world, in the Teatro Colon, but because I believe that in Sao Paulo, the orchestra excelled itself with Brahms *Symphony N°1* and together, they created a unique momentum.

Where was the orchestra five years ago and where is it now?

I feel, we have had a great journey over the past years. The orchestra and I share a strong vision of music making together, from the idea of sound, to blending, to the balance of music. There is a real appetite and curiosity here to expand our repertoire and engage our audience, which I believe is identifying itself more than ever with our orchestra. Our touring projects in Europe and South America and our recordings have expanded our audiences across continents and got us a lot of international attention. The hard work of each and everyone in the orchestra and in administration has contributed to the success of the past years, I am proud of what we have established and look forward developing further exceptional projects here in Luxembourg.



Tonight you will be on stage with an exceptional soloist and will present a new work by Francisco Coll. Bruckner will also be on the program. What significance does the concert have today and to what extent does it give a foretaste of the coming years? What can the audience look forward to?

The fact that we play a world premiere tonight, a work by Francisco Coll, shows that the orchestra and me not only have shared many experiences in the past, but we're having exciting projects in the present, are moving towards the future together and have succeeded in establishing many interesting relationships. The idea for the *Violin Concerto* by Francisco Coll was born when we first toured in Spain together with the OPL and Patricia Kopatchinskaja. I introduced her to the Spanish composer and soon the idea of a further collaboration was born. This also shows that we are committed to new compositions but also try to create a certain continuity by dedicating ourselves to composers like Bruckner and performing their works regularly. The *Violin Concerto* is not only perfectly written for Patricia Kopatchinskaja but it is also a fantastic symbol. Francisco Coll refers to the classical structure of the three movements with a cadenza at the end of the second, but the work presents

itself in a completely new guise and thus fits into our time. And so, together with the orchestra, I am trying to incorporate the experiences of recent years into future projects. Next season, there are also great projects waiting for us, such as the Beethoven Concerto cycle with Krystian Zimerman alongside works of the 2nd Viennese School, and for 2022, we have planned great tours.