SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

NICOLA LUISOTTI

Italian conductor Nicola Luisotti, music director designate of San Francisco Opera, made his international debut in 2002 leading a new production of *Il Trovatore* at the Stuttgart State Theater. His career trajectory since then can only be described as meteoric, with debuts in all the world's major opera houses—most recently with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden (*Il Trovatore* and *Madama Butterfly*), the Metropolitan Opera (*Tosca*), Vienna State Opera (*Simon Boccanegra*), and Madrid's Teatro Real (*Il Trovatore*).

Luisotti's debut in Stuttgart was met with ecstatic critical acclaim, and within weeks he was offered a debut engagement at Paris Opera to conduct *La Traviata* (2003). Other invitations came from the Canadian Opera Company (*Un Ballo in Maschera* in 2003), Genoa's Teatro Carlo Felice (*Il Viaggio a Reims* in 2003 and *Simon Boccanegra* in 2004), Munich's Bavarian State Opera (*Tosca* in 2004), and San Francisco Opera (*La Forza del Destino* in 2005). He made his debut in Japan with a staged production of *Tosca* at Suntory Hall and has established growing relationships with the orchestras of Zagreb, Sofia, Genoa, NHK, Tokyo Symphony, Munich's Bavarian Radio Orchestra, and Rome's Santa Cecilia Orchestra. He made his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic conducting Dvorák's Requiem in December 2007. Luisotti's other recent and upcoming engagements include *Tosca* at Paris Opera, a new production of *Il Trittico* with Frankfurt Opera, *La Bohème* with the Metropolitan Opera and San Francisco Opera, *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Tokyo's Suntory Hall, *Turandot* at Covent Garden, *Macbeth* for the season opening at Bavarian State Opera and concerts with London's Philarmonia Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony as well as a return to the Berlin Philharmonic. Maestro Luisotti assumes the position of music director for San Francisco Opera in September of 2009, and he was recently appointed principal guest conductor of the Tokyo Symphony.

The conductor's growing discography includes a complete recording of *Stiffellio* (Dynamic) with the orchestra of Trieste's Teatro Verdi and the critically acclaimed *Duets* (Deutsche Grammophon), featuring Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazón; he is also on the podium of a DVD recording of the Met's recent *La Bohème,* starring Angela Gheorghiu and Ramón Vargas (EMI).

Born in the Tuscan village of Viareggio and raised nearby, Luisotti began studying music as a child, with lessons on the church organ; by age eleven he was the director of the church choir. He later trained as a pianist, with secondary degrees in composition, trumpet, and voice. Following completion of his formal study, Luisotti's first professional years were prescient of his future: He traveled between Milan, where he was a rehearsal pianist for La Scala, and Florence, where he was a member of the chorus of the Maggio Musicale Festival. His earliest full-time position was as chorus master for La Fenice in Venice.

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