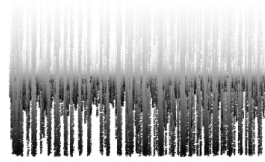


ABOUT



INTERNATIONAL MAHLER ORCHESTRA

The International Mahler Orchestra – winner of the ECF Princess Margriet Award 2013 – was founded in 2006 by Yoel Gamzou and a group of idealistic musicians for the purpose of developing a new orchestral format which would raise the relevance of classical music in our society and regain the trust of audiences. Challenging many of the conventions of today's classical music world, the IMO puts emphasis on three main aspects in its activities. First, the implementation of a unique **democratic, non-hierarchical structure** in which all members are directly involved with and responsible for all aspects of the orchestra's activities, from substantial decision making all the way up to forming a consensus on musical choices in rehearsal. Second, the forming of a **very diverse human texture** of carefully selected permanent members, bringing young musicians of the highest calibre together with experienced and accomplished ones, combining tradition and innovation and assuring an extremely high level of music-making. And third, a strong commitment to **challenging the status-quo** within the world of classical music and questioning all the outdated habits and rituals, both in terms of content as well as form, resulting in varied programmes and orchestral formations. Our performances are based on an approach of a personal dialogue between musicians and listeners, in which both partners are deeply involved and are utterly indispensable. This way we aim to turn classical music into a lively platform of exchange relevant to a more substantial part of society, regardless of background or education. It is only through this relevance and sincere content that we will reach our audience, and it is only through the legitimacy given by the audience that art and culture will continue to evolve and remain an essential part of our identities.