

## **Fabio Luisi**

### ***Music Director Designate***

#### ***Louise W. & Edmund J. Kahn Music Directorship***

GRAMMY® Award-winner Fabio Luisi looks forward to launching his tenure as Louise W. & Edmund J. Kahn Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra (DSO) in the 2020/21 season. A maestro of major international standing, the Italian conductor is currently embarking on his eighth season as General Music Director of the Zurich Opera and his fourth as Principal Conductor of the Danish National Symphony Orchestra. He previously served for six seasons as Principal Conductor of the Metropolitan Opera.

As Music Director Designate of the DSO, Luisi joins the orchestra for five programs this season. Highlights include concert performances of Richard Strauss's opera *Salome* and monumental *Alpine Symphony*, the Dallas premieres of *Fountain of Youth* by DSO composer-in-residence Julia Wolfe and *Aureole* by Augusta Read Thomas, and accounts of Franz Schmidt's *The Book with Seven Seals* (*Das Buch mit sieben Siegeln*), a work Luisi has recorded and consistently championed, during the orchestra's SOLUNA Festival. The conductor also undertakes concerto collaborations with Cliburn prizewinner Beatrice Rana and DSO Artist-in-Residence James Ehnes, and leads performances of Brahms's Second Symphony for future release in a complete Brahms symphonic cycle on the orchestra's DSO Live label.

Beyond Dallas this season, Luisi resumes the Zurich Opera podium for Richard Strauss's *Arabella*, in a new staging by Robert Carsen; Verdi's *Nabucco*, with a gala performance starring Plácido Domingo; the same composer's *La traviata* and Requiem, in a lavish co-production with the Zurich Ballet and Zurich Opera Chorus; an operetta gala showcasing Camilla Nylund and Piotr Beczala; and a pair of Philharmonia Zürich programs featuring a collaboration with Leonidas Kavakos. Luisi also returns to the Paris Opera for Aribert Reimann's *Lear* and Verdi's *Don Carlo*, with Roberto Alagna and Michael Fabiano sharing the title role. In the concert hall, besides returning to Tokyo's NHK Symphony and Milan's La Scala Orchestra, he leads the Danish National Symphony Orchestra in the first act of Wagner's *Die Walküre* and in performances of six symphonies: Beethoven's Ninth, Schumann's First, Bruckner's Fourth, Brahms's Fourth, Nielsen's Third and Langgaard's Fourth.

The conductor received his first GRAMMY® Award in March 2013 for his leadership of the last two operas of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, when Deutsche Grammophon's DVD release of the full cycle, recorded live at the Met, was named Best Opera Recording of 2012. In February 2015, the Philharmonia Zurich launched its Philharmonia Records label with three Luisi recordings: Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*; a double album surveying Wagner's

Preludes and Interludes, and a DVD of Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Subsequent releases include a survey of Rachmaninov's Four Piano Concertos and *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini* with soloist Lise de la Salle, and a rare recording of the original version of Bruckner's monumental Symphony No. 8. Luisi's extensive discography also includes rare Verdi operas (*Jérusalem*, *Alzira*, and *Aroldo*), Salieri's *La locandiera*, Bellini's *I puritani* and *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, with Anna Netrebko and Elina Garanča for Deutsche Grammophon, and the symphonic repertoire of Honegger, Respighi, and Liszt. He has recorded all the symphonies and the oratorio *Das Buch mit sieben Siegeln* by neglected Austrian composer Franz Schmidt; several works by Richard Strauss for Sony Classical; and an award-winning account of Bruckner's Ninth Symphony with the Staatskapelle Dresden.

Born in Genoa in 1959, Luisi began piano studies at the age of four and received his diploma from the Conservatorio Niccolò Paganini in 1978. He later studied conducting with Milan Horvat at the Conservatory in Graz. Named both Cavaliere della Repubblica Italiana and Commendatore della Stella d'Italia, for his role in promoting Italian culture abroad, in 2014 he was awarded the Grifo d'Oro, the highest honor given by the city of Genoa, for his contributions to the city's cultural legacy. Off the podium, Luisi is an accomplished composer whose *Saint Bonaventure Mass* received its world premiere at New York's St. Bonaventure University, followed by its New York City premiere in the MetLiveArts series, with the Buffalo Philharmonic and Chorus. He is also a passionate maker of perfumes. As reported by the *New York Times*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, and elsewhere, sales from his one-person operation, [flparfums.com](http://flparfums.com), benefit the Luisi Academy for Music and Visual Arts.