

“Love at First Measure...”

Martin Fischer-Dieskau



Colbert Artists Management is pleased that Martin Fischer-Dieskau has been selected as the new principal conductor of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. Chosen out of 125 applicants in an exhaustive search lasting two years, he was introduced in a grand inaugural concert in Kitchener-Waterloo, Canada at Centre in the Square on June 1, 2001 to a wildly approving full house.

Up to the very day of his inauguration, only a select few knew who would be the new conductor. Subscribers of the symphony received a cryptic invitation urging them to call in and receive a ticket to a concert which would be led by the new mystery conductor; all the tickets were distributed within two days and excitement in the twin cities was high. So eager was the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony to keep their appointment a secret that they

flew Mr. Fischer-Dieskau in under another name and urged him to avoid certain places and restaurants. As a result, his announcement came to all as a big surprise (and a delight).

When orchestra members met their new conductor for the first time in rehearsal that afternoon, they were ecstatic and played accordingly. Their enthusiasm, though, was more than matched by the audience's reaction that evening. The program began with a rendition of *Oh Canada*, led by the concertmaster without a conductor. When Mr. Fischer-Dieskau came onstage the audience rose to its feet, whistling, yelling and applauding thunderously. Following a formal introduction, he stepped onto the podium and conducted a short program, including a fast-paced Shostakovich overture, the slow movement of Dvorak's *New World Symphony* and Strauss' *Morgenblaetter (Morning Papers)* waltz, all to a standing ovation. The stage was lovingly decorated with fresh flowers and ferns and all members of the orchestra wore red carnations to complement the white carnation that Mr. Fischer-Dieskau wore on his lapel. There were wonderful speeches and Mr. Fischer-Dieskau spoke very emotionally, telling the audience "it was love at first measure."



After the concert, all who attended were invited for a reception in the lobby where wine and white-iced cupcakes, initialed "MFD" in red, were passed out to the celebratory crowd to complete the evening's festive occasion.

Martin Fischer-Dieskau was chosen both for his conducting excellence and for the chemistry and vision he shares with the orchestra. "The musicians and the search committee agreed that there were a number of candidates who were excellent for the position," said Michael Duschenes, Kitchener-Waterloo's general manager, "but in the end everyone agreed that Martin stood out above the rest for this orchestra and this community."

In the course of his career, Martin Fischer-Dieskau has conducted more than 50 orchestras worldwide and is considered one of the most versatile conductors of his generation. He studied conducting, violin and piano at the conservatories in Berlin, Vienna and Siena, and participated in master classes with Franco Ferrara, Seiji Ozawa and Leonard Bernstein, winning the Leonard Bernstein Fellowship Program Scholarship at Tanglewood. Formerly, he was the assistant conductor to Antal Dorati at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.



Mr. Fischer-Dieskau is happy to become a part of the Kitchener-Waterloo team. "When you guest conduct, even when you are a permanent guest conductor, you are really not an integral part of the orchestra. I'm at a point now where I want to work with an orchestra and together move to a higher level."

Mr. Fischer-Dieskau's planning duties have already begun, although he will conduct only once for the 2001/02 season. Beginning in the 2002/03 season, he will lead the orchestra in 13 programs over the course of 14 weeks. "This is a huge challenge for all of us, but I'm quite positive it will all be great," Mr. Fischer-Dieskau said. "There are so many talented people around, I feel very humble to have been selected. That's why I think I was very lucky."



Colbert Artists Management Inc.

111 West 57th Street, New York, New York 10019
(212)757-0782 • Fax (212)541-5179 • West Coast (858)794-0182
E-mail: NYColbert@ColbertArtists.com