Taipei Symphony Orchestra will be led by a new Music Director Designate, Martin Fischer-Dieskau

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After one-year of hard work, the highly publicized election of Music Director for the Taipei Symphony Orchestra comes to an end. The well-known German conductor, Martin Fischer-Dieskau, was chosen to be Music Director Designate of Taipei Symphony Orchestra for the Taipei Symphony Orchestra in the year 2008. This is another outstanding achievement in the election process for a new Music Director for the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. The Taipei Symphony Orchestra and the Music Director Designate will evaluate the feasibility of extending the contract after one year of cooperation. If things run well, Fischer-Dieskau is expected to start his official term as the Music Director from 2009.

From 2004, the Department of Cultural Affairs of Taipei City took the initiative to plan the process for searching the Music Director publicly. Its purpose is to separate the professional musical management from the administration of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. Martin Fischer-Dieskau's goal is to transform the Taipei Symphony Orchestra into a first-tier orchestra so that the Orchestra can start to shine on the international stage. He is confident and ready to open a brilliant new page for Taipei Symphony Orchestra.

Martin Fischer-Dieskau is the son of baritone Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Cellist Irmgard Poppen. He started his career leading the production of a Haydn opera in his native Berlin at the age of nineteen, where he thereafter studied various instruments and conducting at the "Universitat der Kunste" as well as Italien Literature and Musicology at the "Freie Universitat". He was the German Music Council's top prize winner twice in 1976 and 1977 which led to some first invitations to leading orchestras in Germany and brought him into contact with Seiji Ozawa who invited him as a recipient of the much sought after Leonard Bernstein fellowship program in Tanglewood, USA. In 1978 it was Antal Dorati who engaged him as Assistant Conductor with the Detroit Symphony and advised him to return to Europe after two seasons in order to follow the steps of so many good conductors of the past: becoming a repetiteur and "Kapellmeister" in various opera houses. His positions included Augsburg, Aachen, Hagen and finally Stuttgart and Bern, where he served as Principal Conductor from 1990 till 1994 conducting a wide range of Contemporary, Russian and Italian repertoire. He also led productions at the "San Carlo" in Naples and the "Regio" in Torino and became a frequent guest at international festivals such as the Helsinki, Granada and Berlin Festivals.

Meanwhile his work on the concert platform had established Martin Fischer-Dieskau as a conductor of all important British orchestras; he was invited to Japan's NHK as well as to the Berlin Philharmonic.

As Principal Conductor of the Canadian KW Symphony from 2000 to 2004 he could make important contributions for the augmentation of the standard repertoire and opened the concert hall to new audiences. With the KW Symphony he also inaugurated the first German-Canadian Festival in Toronto in 2002. Martin Fischer-Dieskau records for the Marco Polo and BIS labels, holds a professorship with the "Hochschule der Kunste" in Bremen, Germany and established his own television series introducing young artists for the German "ARD". He was acquainted for the first time in 2005 with Taiwan's distinguished classical music culture conducting and

teaching at the NTNU University in Taipei; which later resulted in a concert engagement with the Taipei Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra in 2006. The following seasons brought him back to Israel, France, the Netherlands and the United States. Re-engagements for the upcoming years include a concert tour with the Flandrish Orkest in Belgium and the first performance of a new Dutch opera in Amsterdam.

In 2008, Martin Fischer-Dieskau will conduct four concerts and one opera with the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. Also, he will be in charge of planning for the performances of 2009. With his international experiences and vision, we expect the cooperation between Mr. Martin Fischer-Dieskau and the Taipei Symphony Orchestra will bring the music culture in Taiwan to a high peak.

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