

YAN PASCAL TORTELIER TO BE PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR AT OSESP IN 2009 AND 2010

French Conductor has a successful international career and was a prominent leader of the Brazilian orchestra last year

The Board of the Osesp Foundation has hired an internationally renowned professional to be the Principal Conductor for the 2009 and 2010. It shall be 61-year old French conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier, emeritus head of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, who has been Principal Conductor from 1992 to 2003. Tortelier will conduct eight programs in 2009, in São Paulo, and 12 programs in 2010.

In addition to hiring a new Principal Conductor, the Board has also concluded negotiations to hire two international professional consultants in 2009 and 2010 to make decisions in the field of artistic direction. Timothy Walker, executive and artistic director at the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and Henry Fogel, former president of the League of American Orchestras. Fogel is also former executive director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington (during the Rostropovich period) and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 18 years (in the Georg Solti and Daniel Barenboim period). Both will provide continuous consultancy to the OSESP Foundation over the two years and will take part in preparation of the 2010 season. They will also be on the Recruitment Committee to find an artistic director, to be taken on in 2011.

The Principal Conductor. Yan Pascal Tortelier has just finished a three year stint as principal conductor at the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, in the USA. He has led many of the leading European orchestras, such as the London Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras, the Paris Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, La Scala Philharmonic Orchestra and the Saint Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also conducted some of the leading orchestras in the USA, such as the Los Angeles, São Francisco and Baltimore Philharmonic Orchestras and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

In 2008 Tortelier led the OSESP in two programs, as guest conductor, performing memorably. His conducting style was highly suited to the orchestra and resulted in concerts that were very well received by critics and acclaimed by the public. His excellent artistic performance and his rapid understanding with the orchestra were decisive in his being chosen.

Born into a family of musicians, Yan Pascal Tortelier began his piano and violin studies at the age of four. At 14 he won first prize for violin at the Paris Conservatory. After studying music with Nadia Boulanger, he studied conducting under Franco Ferrara in Siena, Italy.

In 1992 the conductor orchestrated a Ravel piano trio which has gained global prestige and is frequently played in the main concert halls of the world. His discography, released by several labels, includes the work of Poulenc, Dutilleux, Saint-Saëns, Gershwin, Hindemith, Honegger, Holst, Rimsky-Korsakov, Respighi and Lutoslawski, besides the complete work of Debussy and Ravel. He currently records frequently for the Chandos label, which is in negotiation with Osesp to distribute the orchestra's productions.

The hiring of Tortelier for 2009 and 2010 is part of a reorganization process at OSESP. The OSESP Foundation's Board has been working on the construction of a new artistic structure, both for 2009 and 2010 and subsequent years, including the creation of a Recruitment Committee for an artistic director for 2011. New decisions will be taken shortly and will be announced immediately to the public by the OSESP Foundation as soon as the studies and negotiations have been concluded.

Timothy Walker. Executive and artistic director of the London Philharmonic since 2002, he was the founder and chief executive of World Orchestras, a company responsible for international orchestral seasons at the Sydney Opera and Melbourne Concert Hall. During his time in charge he took the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra to Australia. He was also general manager of the Australian Chamber Orchestra from 1989 to 1999.

Henry Fogel. He was President of the League of American Orchestras from 2003 to 2008, where he was president of the Board of Administration from 2001 to 2003. He was also executive director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington from 1981 to 1985, and of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for 18 years, from 1985, being chiefly responsible for its strengthening. He is a professor at the faculty of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University in Chicago. In 1990 Business Week magazine voted him one of the five best cultural administrators in the USA.