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RICCARDO MINASI TO BE FIRST ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE ORCHESTRA LA SCINTILLA

Riccardo Minasi has been appointed as first Artistic Director of the Orchestra La Scintilla. The Italian violinist and conductor has enjoyed a close working relationship with the historical performance practice ensemble since 2015. Together they've performed Mozart's «Don Giovanni» and «Die Entführung aus dem Serail» at the Opernhaus Zürich, presented a multitude of concert programs, and recorded the «Mozart» album with Juan Diego Flórez, as well as a CD with Vivaldi's and Verdi's «Four Seasons». Minasi will appear again with the ensemble for the «Monteverdi» ballet production beginning 15 January. This season also sees him musically direct the revival of «Il turco in Italia», as well as the two «A night at the opera-pit» concerts, and «Johann Christian Bach».

Andreas Homoki (Intendant of the Opernhaus Zürich): «I am so pleased that we have engaged Riccardo Minasi, one of the most distinguished conductors and experts in historically informed performance practice, as Artistic Director of the Orchestra La Scintilla. With this appointment, the Opernhaus Zürich continues a tradition founded by Nikolaus Harnoncourt, from which La Scintilla emerged more than 20 years ago – the only historically informed performance practice orchestra in the world whose members are also part of a permanent opera orchestra. The Opernhaus sees this newly created position of Artistic Director of this exceptional ensemble as a visible sign of its sustained commitment to a lively engagement with historical performance practice. »

Gianandrea Noseda (General Music Director): «I am extremely happy to welcome Riccardo Minasi to the Opernhaus family as Artistic Director of La Scintilla. I am sure that his knowledge, enthusiasm, and inspiration, along with his fruitful relationship with La Scintilla, will bring extra excitement to Zurich. »

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Riccardo Minasi (Artistic Director of the Orchestra La Scintilla) on his appointment:

«I think that no other institution has been more meaningful to me over the years than Opernhaus Zürich. Thanks to the support and trust of the whole house, I have had some of the most important experiences of my musical life here. Working together on a regular basis with La Scintilla – an ensemble with an exemplary tradition maintained vividly for so many years thanks to the enthusiasm of its artists – is a great honor, and I'm extremely thankful to all the musicians and the administration of the orchestra for their support. I can't wait to begin! »

Born in Rome, Minasi has quickly earned a reputation as one of the most exciting talents to emerge on the European scene in recent years. Minasi's performances are characterized by a deep understanding of musicology. He is the Chief Conductor of the Mozarteumorchester in Salzburg and Artist in Residence with the Ensembles Resonanz at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg. In recent years, he has led numerous orchestras and ensembles, including the London Chamber Orchestra, the Concerto Köln, the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover, the Academy of Ancient Music, the Konzerthausorchester Berlin, the Tokyo Metropolitan Orchestra, the Orchestre National de Lyon, the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, the Basler Kammerorchester, the Philharmonische Staatsorchester Hamburg, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and many others. His most recent operatic engagements have led him to houses such as the Salzburg Festival, the Hamburger Staatsoper, the Opéra National de Lyon, the Theater an der Wien as well as the Dutch National Opera. Riccardo Minasi has made recordings with Joyce DiDonato, Ann Hallenberg, and Philippe Jaroussky.

He has appeared as a soloist and concert master with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, the Accademia Bizantina, Il Giardino Armonico, Le Concert des Nations, Al Ayre Español, the Orquesta Barroca de Sevilla, and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Madrid. In addition, he has worked together with musicians such as Veronika Eberle, Bryn Terfel, Franco Fagioli, Jean-Guihen Queyras, Viktoria Mullova, Reinhard Goebel, Luca Pianca, Christophe Coin, and Albrecht Mayer.