

MATTHIAS PINTSCHER

Conductor & Composer

Matthias Pintscher is the newly appointed Music Director of the Kansas City Symphony (KCS) as of the 2024-25 season. He launched his tenure with a highly successful tour with the orchestra to Europe just before opening the season in Kansas City, with concerts at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Berlin Philharmonie, and Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie.

Highlights of the 2025-26 season include the world premiere of Pintscher's new opera *Das kalte Herz* by the Staatsoper Berlin in January, which he composed and will conduct, and will reprise in a French version titled *Nuit sans aube* at the Opéra-Comique in Paris in March. In North America, he returns to the Los Angeles Philharmonic to lead Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 with Emanuel Ax alongside his own work *neharot*, the Philadelphia Orchestra to perform Copland's Symphony No. 3 and his own *Assonanza*, and debuts with the Oregon Symphony. He also spends two weeks with the Cincinnati Symphony in his sixth season as Creative Partner. In Europe, his guest conducting engagements include the Munich Philharmonic, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, Barcelona Symphony, and Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra's Musica Viva series.

In Pintscher's second season as Music Director of the Kansas City Symphony, he will conduct ten weeks including a pair of concerts celebrating the music of Sergei Rachmaninoff with piano soloists Yefim Bronfman and George Li, as well as the US premiere of Japanese composer Toshio Hosokawa's trumpet concerto, *Im Nebel*.

Pintscher recently concluded a decade-long tenure as the Music Director of the Ensemble Intercontemporain (EIC), the iconic Parisian contemporary ensemble founded by Pierre Boulez and winner of the 2022 Polar Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy. During his stewardship, he led this adventurous institution in the creation of dozens of world premieres, made recordings of music by cutting edge composers from all over the world, and took the ensemble on tours around the globe – to Asia, North America, and throughout Europe to all the major festivals and concert halls.

In opera, Pintscher has conducted several titles at the Staatsoper Berlin (Wagner's *Lohengrin* and *The Flying Dutchman*, Beat Furrer's *Violetter Schnee*), and Olga Neuwirth's *Orlando* with the Wiener Staatsoper. His early operatic works had been premiered by the Paris National Opera and Semperoper Dresden.

Also well known as a composer, Pintscher's works appear frequently on the programs of major orchestras throughout the world. In August 2021, he was the focus of the Suntory Hall Summer Festival, a week-long celebration of his works with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra as well as a residency by the EIC with symphonic and chamber music performances. His third violin concerto, *Assonanza*, written for Leila Josefowicz, was premiered in January 2022 with the Cincinnati Symphony. Another 2021-22 world premiere was *neharot* – a co-commission of Suntory Hall, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre de la

Suisse Romande, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Staatskapelle Dresden – which saw its US premiere in October 2024 by the New York Philharmonic with Pintscher conducting. In the 2016-17 season, he was the inaugural composer-in-residence of the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, and from 2014 to 2017, he was artist-in-residence at the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, as well as composer-in-residence at Salzburg Festival and Lucerne Festival.

Pintscher has held several titled positions. He was BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra's Artist-in-Association for nine seasons. In 2020, he was Music Director at the Ojai Festival, and in 2018-19, he served as the Season Creative Chair for the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich and Artist-in-Residence at the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. An enthusiastic supporter of and mentor to students and young musicians, Pintscher was Principal Conductor of the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra, and ran the Heidelberger Atelier, an academy for young musicians and composers, from 2005 to 2018. He has also worked with the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic, Music Academy of the West, National Orchestral Institute, and Junge Deutsche Philharmonie. He appears regularly with the New World Symphony in Miami, a training orchestra for post-conservatory, pre-professional musicians.

Matthias Pintscher began his musical training in conducting, studying with Pierre Boulez and Peter Eötvös in his early twenties, when composing soon took a more prominent role in his life. He rapidly gained critical acclaim in both areas of activity and continues to compose prolifically in addition to his conducting career. Pintscher's music is championed by some of today's finest performing artists, orchestras, and conductors. His works have been performed by such orchestras as the Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and the Orchestre de Paris, among many others. He is published by Boosey and Hawkes: works written before 2023 are published by Baerenreiter. Recordings of his works can be found on Kairos, EMI, Teldec, Wergo, and Winter & Winter.