

The Indonesian conductor **NOORMAN WIDJAJA** was born in a family of musicians. As an eleven-year old boy, he revealed his outstanding talent at the concert in Jakarta held in honour of President Sukarno, replacing with great success his father who suddenly fell ill. In 1969 he began to study the piano in Berlin with Gerhard Puchelt, composing with I Song Jun, and conducting with Hans Martin Rabenstein. In 1982, he was invited to the Nürnberg Opera by its chief conductor Hans Gierster, where Widjaja conducted more than 400 operas from 1982 to 1990. Honorary guest and chief conductor of the Shanghai Orchestra from 1990 to 1995, Noorman Widjaja became renowned for his outstanding interpretations of the works by Beethoven, Borodin, Brahms, Bruckner, Tchaikovsky, Mahler, Rachmaninov, Rimsky-Korsakov, Sibelius, Richard Strauss, etc. In 1993, he conducted the world first performance of the opera *The Grand Wall* in Taipei and until 2004 appeared on a regular basis at the Taipei Music Festival. From 1993 to 1995, he served as chief conductor of the Japanese Metropolitan Opera, conducting, among other operas, *Otello*, *Turandot*, *Rigoletto*, *Tosca* and *The Troubadour*. Widjaja has toured Asia with the Russian Philharmonic and recorded a number of CDs in Moscow. He made his Italian debut in 1994 with the concert performance of Carlo Pedrotti opera *Tutti in maschera* in Verona, which was followed by his acclaimed performance of Verdi's *Requiem*. He continued to extensively appear in Italy as a conductor and pianist. Noorman Widjaja, has conducted the most renowned orchestras of Berlin, Dresden, Hanover, Wiesbaden, Oldenburg, Bremen, Nürnberg and Moscow, as well as Asia's major orchestras. He has worked with many prestigious soloists such as Hiroyuki Iwaki, Andrei Pisarev and Anastasia Chebotareva. In 2002, he became chief conductor of the Seto Philharmonic, and also performed as a pianist in Asia and Europe. In 2008, with Opera Classica Europe, he conducted the Frankfurt Symphony Orchestra in gala operatic concerts, and also conducted the operas *Tosca*, *Carmen* and *Aida*. Devoting himself to the assistance of those in needs, Widjaja has worked for many years with the renowned actor Karlheinz Böhm and his organisation People for People. Since 2010 to 2012, he was Principal Guest Conductor of Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra. Since 2011 he is Conductor of Macedonian Opera House.