

Daniel Harding leads the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Violinist Isabelle Faust in Pavia and Torino

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The Mahler Chamber Orchestra (MCO) today announced its tour of Italy in February and March 2008. Concerts in Pavia (7 February) and Torino (8 February) mark the first part of the tour, with MCO Music Director Daniel Harding conducting an all-Dvořák programme featuring the Violin Concerto and Symphony No. 7. MCO's Italy tour will be continued in March, when the ensemble will perform concerts in Cremona (10 March), Bologna (11 March), Ravenna (12 March) and Parma (13 March).

While February 7 sees MCO's inaugural concert in Pavia, the MCO has been a regular guest in Torino. Since 2003, the ensemble appears at least once a year here. In the past years, the MCO has been the musical highlight of the Sintonie Festival, where MCO Music Director Daniel Harding conducted a highly acclaimed concert version of Berg's *Wozzeck* in 2005.

The selection of Dvorak's Violin Concerto and Symphony No. 7 follows MCO's artistic plan to expand its repertoire from the classical to the romantic period. The MCO's interpretation, influenced greatly by chamber music, introduces a different sound concept for these pieces, one characterized by transparency and slenderness. In 2007, the MCO enjoyed great success with one of Dvořák's pieces: they performed his Symphony No. 9 in the inaugural concert of the Grand Palais in Aix-en-Provence.

The MCO is joined by the young violinist Isabelle Faust for the Violin Concerto. Ms. Faust performs with orchestras such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Orchestre de Paris. Her tours have taken her to many European countries, as well as Israel, Japan and the USA. She is regularly invited to perform with such conductors as Paavo Berglund, Marek Janowski, and Sakari Oramo. As Ms. Faust is an enthusiastic chamber musician who recorded an award winning CD of Dvořák's Violin Concerto in 2004, she is a perfect match for the MCO. This will be Ms. Faust's debut with the MCO. The concert in Torino will be recorded by the Italian radio station RAI Tre.

Since MCO's founding in 1997, Italy has been an important destination for the ensemble. The MCO has been performing as orchestra-in-residence in Ferrara since 1998, appears regularly in Reggio Emilia and has toured Italy many times. An upcoming highlight of the current season is Beethoven's *Fidelio* under the baton of Claudio Abbado in Reggio Emilia.

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The Mahler Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1997 on the initiative of Claudio Abbado and a group of musicians from the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra who wished to continue to play together even after reaching the youth orchestra's age limit. The combined principles of artistic curiosity and the broadest possible spectrum of repertoire, both at the highest possible musical level, guided the ambitious ensemble in its founding and continue to shape its work today. The ensemble's repertoire reaches from baroque to contemporary and includes everything from chamber music to symphonic programming, from operatic standards to world premieres.

[You can find this press release here](#)