

Nir Kabaretti

Internationally acclaimed conductor, Nir Kabaretti, is the Music and Artistic Director of the Santa Barbara Symphony and of the South West Florida Symphony. Described as “*a conductor with immense musicality and warm personality*” by Maestro Zubin Mehta, Kabaretti has earned an impressive reputation across continents for his command of a vast symphonic, operatic and ballet repertoire, and his profound knowledge of and sensitivity to the music he conducts.

Upon graduation from the prestigious University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Kabaretti began working as coach and Chorus Master at the Vienna State Opera and the Salzburg Festival. He later advanced to positions as Assistant to the Music Director at the Teatro Real in Madrid and Personal Assistant to Maestro Zubin Mehta at Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in Florence, Italy. He was also appointed Music Director of the Symphonette Raanana Orchestra in Israel a position he held until 2008.

Nir Kabaretti has worked with some of the world’s most sought-after musicians, such as Lang Lang, Plácido Domingo, Itzhak Perlman and Hélène Grimaud. Some of his collaborations as guest conductor include: Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra, Orquesta Filarmonica de Buenos Aires, Orquestre National du Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse, Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Orchestra del Teatro dell’Opera di Roma, Orchestra del Teatro Petruzzelli di Bari, Orchestra del Teatro Carlo Felice di Genova, Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano “Giuseppe Verdi”, Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, Slovenian Philharmonic Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Haifa Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Orquesta Sinfonica de Madrid, Real Orquesta Sinfónica de Sevilla, Orquesta Filarmonica de Gran Canaria and the Bochumer Symphoniker.

Kabaretti’s operatic experience includes productions at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Macbeth, Il Trovatore, Gianni Schicchi, Il viaggio a Reims*), Teatro Real in Madrid (*La Cenerentola, Die Walküre*), The Israeli Opera (*Fidelio, Manon Lescaut*), Opéra de Lausanne (*Il Cappello di Paglia di Firenze, Die Fledermaus, Falstaff*), Avenches Opera Festival (*Nabucco, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Madama Butterfly*), Tokyo New National Theatre (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) and Opera Santa Barbara (*Carmen*). He conducted *The Diary of Anne Frank*, a guest production of the Vienna State Opera performed at both the Bregenz Festival and Expo 2000 in Hannover. In 2005, Kabaretti lead Teatro San Carlo di Napoli on its first tour to Japan, conducting *Il Trovatore* in Kyoto and Tokyo.

During the 2004-05 season he made his debut at Teatro alla Scala di Milano with Tchaikowsky’s *The Nutcracker*. In 2007 he was invited again for the ballet production of Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream* (broadcasted by Italian television RAI, and released on DVD by TDK).

Maestro Kabaretti received the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Grant for Young Conductors. In 1993, he won the Forum Junger Künstler Conducting Competition in Vienna. In 1994 he was among the finalists in the International Competition for Conductors in Douai, France.

Kabaretti is fluent in Hebrew, English, Italian, German and Spanish.