



Orkest van
Gelderland
& Overijssel

Press Release

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Phion, Orkest van Gelderland & Overijssel appoints Otto Tausk as Chief Conductor

On 11 September, as it performs in a series of concerts in Arnhem, Nijmegen and Enschede, Phion, Orkest van Gelderland & Overijssel will be presenting its new Chief Conductor, Otto Tausk. The appointment of the Dutchman serves to reaffirm the orchestra's plans for its future.

Phion (the product of a merger between Het Gelders Orkest and Orkest van het Oosten) is delighted that Tausk is keen to commit to the organisation for at least two years. In addition to fulfilling his role as Chief Conductor of Phion, Tausk will continue to serve as Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

"I am thrilled to have been appointed Chief Conductor of Phion, Orkest van Gelderland & Overijssel," commented Otto Tausk. "From the very first day I worked with them, I was impressed by the warmth, openness and ambition of the orchestra's musicians. I'm very much looking forward to getting to know these fantastic people even better and to building on the strong musical connection we have discovered. We will be working together to start a new chapter to what will undoubtedly be an amazing story."

"Otto Tausk is the perfect fit for Phion," added Managing Director Jacco Post. "He understands what we represent as an orchestra and is full of valuable ideas that are sure to provide us with even more direction, particularly at the present time. I am convinced that his ability to connect people will help us – essentially a merged orchestra based in both Arnhem and Enschede – meld together artistically. Otto Tausk actually lives in the region too, and this will certainly help us to intensify the contacts we have here. As a conductor with many years of international experience, Otto Tausk will, of course, also be bringing an interesting network of soloists and conductors along with him. We can't wait to get started with them and for our audience to experience the beauty this is sure to bring forth."

Otto Tausk will be opening Phion's new concert season on 11, 12 and 13 September with a wonderful programme of Beethoven's Symphony No 1, alongside the chamber orchestra version of Joep Franssens' Piano Concerto. www.phion.nl/beethoven1

Otto Tausk

'The Concertgebouworkest conjured up clouds of fluid, silky sounds of all dynamic ranges. All these extreme contrasts in registers, tones, dark shadows and luminous lights were brought together with great precision, masterly framed by Otto Tausk.' Olga de Kort, Bachtrack

Dutch conductor Otto Tausk first studied the violin with Viktor Liberman and then orchestral conducting with Jonas Aleksa, Kenneth Montgomery and Jurjen Hempel. He started out on his career as an assistant to the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra under Valery Gergiev. He then

went on to become Chief Conductor of the Holland Symfonia and the Tonhalle & Operntheater and Sinfonieorchester St. Gallen in Switzerland. He has served as Music Director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra since 2018. Otto Tausk is much in demand as a guest conductor among all the major orchestras in Australia, and in Europe among orchestras in countries including Sweden, Spain, Germany, Italy, Russia, Norway and Great Britain, having led the Danish National Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra, the Mariinsky Orchestra and almost all the orchestras in the Netherlands, including the Concertgebouworkest. Last year, he made his debut at the world-famous concert series the BBC Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall, conducting Ein Heldenleben by Strauss.

Over recent years, he has also led Phion and its forerunners at a number of successful concerts. In the Netherlands, he became a well-known TV personality after chairing the panel of judges on the popular talent show Maestro for a number of years. Otto Tausk has also gained recognition as an opera conductor. He has led not only many new productions and a number of world premieres in St Gallen, but also the theatre's large repertoire of operas. Other conducting engagements include the Cologne Opera and the Dutch National Opera in Amsterdam, where he will be conducting the world premiere of Upload, Michel van der Aa's latest opera, this season. Otto Tausk has several CDs to his name, including a recording of works by Prokofiev, for which he collaborated with violinist Rosanne Philippens and the orchestra of St Gallen. This was awarded the title Concerto CD of the Month by BBC Music Magazine in 2018.

Phion, Orkest van Gelderland & Overijssel

On 1 September 2019, Het Gelders Orkest merged with Orkest van het Oosten. The new organisation has been operating under the name Phion, Orkest van Gelderland & Overijssel since 1 June 2020. Phion's aim is to be of significance to as many people as possible through the performance of live symphonic music. The orchestra brings a wide range of musical programmes to its audiences, aspiring to be both innovative and surprising. Phion actively engages with its audience, both inside and outside of concert halls. Phion offers something for everyone to discover.

www.phion.nl

Note to editors – not for publication

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