

Kent Nagano  
Conductor

Kent Nagano is considered one of today’s outstanding conductors for both operatic and orchestral repertoire. Since September 2015, he has been General Music Director of the Hamburg State Opera and Chief Conductor of the Philharmonic State Orchestra Hamburg. In addition, he is Artistic Director of the Ring project “The Wagner Cycles” with Concerto Köln and Dresden Festival Orchestra, and as patron of the Herrenchiemsee Festival. He is Honorary Conductor of the Deutsche Symphonie Orchester Berlin since 2006, Concerto Köln since 2019, the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal since 2021 and the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra since 2023.

The 2024/25 season will be Nagano's final season of his tenure in Hamburg and brings four new productions to the State Opera alongside orchestral performances at Elbphilharmonie and a tour to Asia. Nagano regularly works with leading international orchestras, including the Orchestre Philharmonique Radio France, Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Chicago and Detroit Symphony Orchestras, the Radio Filharmonisch Orkest and the Vienna Symphony. This season, he guest conducts the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in Passau, the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal and the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester in Berlin. Guest Opera productions this season include *Il Viaggio, Dante*, by Pascal Dusapin at the Paris Opera and the revival of Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre* at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich.

Under the artistic direction of Kent Nagano and the Intendant of the Dresdner Musikfestspiele Jan Vogler, Wagner's *Ring Tetralogy* is being performed from 2023 to 2026, in the artistic context of the period in which it was composed, based on the latest findings of research into Wagner and performance practice. Touring performances of *The Wagner Cycles* are taking place at such centres as Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Prague Opera, Hamburg Elbphilharmonie, Cologne and Paris Philharmonies, and Dresden, Ravello and Lucerne Festivals. In 2025, the project continues with *Siegfried*.

In October 2019, Kent Nagano and Mari Kodama released on the Berlin Classics label Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 0 E-flat Major WoO 4, a nearly unknown work from the composer’s youth, and his Rondo for Piano and Orchestra WoO 6 with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin. The complete edition of Beethoven’s piano concerti was released on Berlin Classics.

Nagano holds Grammys for his recordings of Busoni’s *Doktor Faust* with Opéra National de Lyon, Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf* with the Russian National Orchestra and Saariaho’s *L’amour de Loin* with the Deutsches Symphonieorchester Berlin.

To celebrate Kent Nagano's 70th birthday in 2021, a 3-CD box set of works by Olivier Messiaen was released on the [BR Klassik label](https://www.br-shop.de/la-transfiguration-de-notre-seigneur-jesus-christ.html). The release includes live recordings of the works *Poèmes pour Mi*, *Chronochromie* and *La Transfiguration de Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ* from his concerts with the Symphonieorchester und Chor des Bayerischen Rundfunks, demonstrating Nagano's close familiarity with Messiaen's musical language.

In September 2021, Kent Nagano published ["10 Lessons of my Life"](https://www.piper.de/buecher/10-lessons-of-my-life-isbn-978-3-8270-1447-4), in which he recalls ten deeply personal encounters with such figures as Björk, Frank Zappa, Leonard Bernstein, Pierre Boulez and the Nobel Prize winner in physics Donald Glaser. His book "[Erwarten Sie Wunder!](https://www.piper.de/buecher/erwarten-sie-wunder-isbn-978-3-492-30822-9)" (‘Expect the Unexpected’ in its English translation) (2015) is a passionate appeal for the relevance of classical music in today's world.

Born in California, Nagano was Music Director of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra from 1978-2009, and appointed assistant conductor to Seiji Ozawa with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in 1984, where he worked on the premiere of Messiaen’s opera *Saint François d'Assise*. He was subsequently Music Director of Opéra National de Lyon (1988-1998) and Music Director of the Hallé Orchestra (1991-2000). Kent Nagano became the first Music Director of Los Angeles Opera in 2003 having already held the position of Principal Conductor for two years.

Kent Nagano holds honorary doctorates from McGill University, Université de Montréal, San Francisco State University and is a "Compagnon" of the "Ordre des arts et des lettres" of Québec, as well as "Chevalier" in the "Ordre des art et des lettres" of France. In February 2024, Kent Nagano was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany by the Federal President and in June 2024 he was awarded the Order of Canada, Canada's highest civilian honor. Kent Nagano is the recipient of the 2024 Brahms Prize of the Brahms Society of

Schleswig-Holstein.

### Season 2024/25

**Not to be altered or shortened without permission of PR² classic.**