

Kanako Abe (Conductor, Composer, Pianist)

Kanako Abe is highly acclaimed as a specialist of contemporary repertoire. She premiered more than 120 pieces and works in collaboration with worldwide renowned composers like Michael Jarrell, Jonathan Harvey, Michael Lévinas, Régis Campo, Motoharu Kawashima and more. On 2019/20 season, she was invited as the conductor of world famous “Toru Takamitsu Composition Award” to conduct Tokyo Philharmonic the world premiere of 4 finalists’ work under the jury composer Philippe Manoury. On 2020/21 season, she will make her debut with L’Orchestre de Chambre de Genève, L’Orchestre de la Garde Républicaine and Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra. Furthermore, she is appointed as the conductor of the world premiere of Bushra El-Turk’s New Opera *Woman at Point Zero* which starts in April 2021.



Photo Credit (c) Piet Gispen

Kanako Abe obtained 7 prizes related to conducting, composition and accompaniment at Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris (CNSMDP) and a diploma in composition at Tokyo University of Arts. Her conducting mentors are Zsolt Nagy, János Fürst, Fabio Luisi and Etienne Siebens. This basic background not only puts her into the expert on conducting of contemporary music but also gives her the renovative vision of interpretation on classical repertoires.

Kanako Abe now holds a position of Music Partner since 2015 at Tokyo Ensemble Factory (a chamber ensemble for contemporary music) and since 2019 at Ensemble Muromachi (an ensemble collaborated with European baroque instruments and Japanese traditional instruments) both based in Tokyo.

Kanako Abe started her career as a conductor during she was studying at CNSMDP. In 2005, she founded ‘Ensemble Multilaterale’, a chamber orchestra for contemporary music including members from Orchestre de Paris and Ensemble Intercontemporain and held the position of music director until 2014. From 2008 to 2010, she was also in position of assistant conductor at Opernhaus Zürich and Opera National de Montpellier working with such conductor as Fabio Luisi, Enrique Mazzola, Lawrence Foster, Alain Altinoglu and more.

Kanako Abe was invited to conduct from the orchestra such as Orchestre National d’Ile de France, Orchestre National de Montpellier, Orchestre National de Lorraine, Orchestre d’Auvergne, Orchestre de Caen, Romanian National Radio Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic, Osaka Symphony Orchestra and more.

Her conviction for the sustainability in music activity is based on two principles: supporting new creations and promoting the education. In order to expand music fans and create next future, she actively programs and performs new works of living composers, participates to the educational project for young people, as well as the social contribution to those who are in need.