

JAHJA LING, Conductor

Jahja Ling's distinguished career as an internationally renowned conductor has earned him an exceptional reputation for musical integrity, intensity and expressivity. Mr. Ling is in his sixth season as Music Director of the San Diego Symphony, where his contract was recently extended beyond 2012. In response to the community's overwhelming support of the orchestra's new Music Director, the Mayor of San Diego proclaimed October 2, 2004 as Jahja Ling Day in a grand gesture of welcome. Since then, his performances have received the highest praise from the public and critics alike. The San Diego Symphony performances conducted by Jahja Ling have been broadcast both locally and nationally. Last year saw the release of two new live recordings conducted by Ling (the Symphony's first in a decade), with more on the way. The Orchestra has undertaken many commissions as well as premieres of many new works and has recorded a CD of new works of Bright Sheng for Telarc Records released in August of 2009. Some live performances are available via www.instantencore.com. Under his leadership, audience attendance has consistently increased and the orchestra has reached a new level of unprecedented financial stability.

As a guest conductor, Mr. Ling has conducted all of the major symphony orchestras in North America including Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and San Francisco, among others. He made his European debut with the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra in 1988 to great acclaim. His other engagements abroad have taken him to the Chamber Orchestra of Lausanne, the China Philharmonic in Beijing, the Copenhagen Philharmonic, the Guangzhou Symphony, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Malaysia Philharmonic, the MDR Symphony Orchestra in Leipzig, the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, the NDR Radio-Philharmonie in Hannover, the NDR Symphony Orchestra in Hamburg, the Orchestre Nationale du Capitole de Toulouse, The Philharmonia Taiwan, the Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, the Shanghai Symphony, the Singapore Symphony, the Sydney Symphony, the Stockholm Philharmonic and Tokyo's Yomiuri Nippon Symphony. In May 1997, Mr. Ling led the Scottish Chamber Orchestra on tour to Hong Kong as part of the celebrations marking the return of Hong Kong to China. In this and upcoming seasons Mr. Ling returns as guest conductor with the China Philharmonic, The Cleveland Orchestra, Columbus Symphony, Guangzhou Symphony, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Philharmonia Taiwan, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Singapore Symphony, and Taiwan National Symphony and he makes his debut with the Macao Symphony and Royal Philharmonic in London. In May 2000, his debut performance with the St. Louis Symphony and cellist Yo-Yo Ma was featured on the ABC News program *20/20*. He also demonstrates a strong commitment to working with young musicians and has conducted the orchestras of the Juilliard School, the Curtis Institute and the Aspen Music Festival.

Mr. Ling is acclaimed not only for his interpretation of the standard repertoire, but also for the breadth of contemporary music included in his programs. Among the world premieres he has conducted are works by William Bolcom, Paul Chihara, Daniel Kellogg, George Perle, Bright Sheng, Alvin Singleton, Augusta Read Thomas, Mark Anthony Turnage and Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, with orchestras such as The

Cleveland Orchestra, the Detroit Symphony, the Florida Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic and the San Diego Symphony, among others.

Mr. Ling holds one of the longest continuous relationships with one of the world's greatest orchestras, The Cleveland Orchestra. He first served as Associate Conductor in the 1984-85 season, and then as Resident Conductor for 17 years from 1985-2002 and as Blossom Festival Director for 6 seasons (2000-2005). Since then he has continued to appear as guest conductor of the Orchestra in every season. This season he is returning to both Severance Hall and the Blossom Festival to celebrate his 25th anniversary with that esteemed ensemble. In his unprecedented 25 consecutive season appearances with the Orchestra, he has conducted over 450 concerts and 600 works in all types of concerts including tours and many world premiere performances. Among his distinguished services as Resident Conductor, Mr. Ling led the orchestra's annual concert in downtown Cleveland, heard by more than a million people since first presented in 1990. His telecast of *A Concert in Tribute and Remembrance* with the Orchestra for 9/11 received an Emmy® Award. The U.S. House of Representatives presented a Congressional Record of his outstanding achievements in the U.S. Capitol in September 2006. Prior to his Cleveland appointment, Mr. Ling served as Assistant and Associate Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony. Deeply committed to education, Mr. Ling served as founding Music Director of the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra (1986-1993) and the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra (1981-84).

His tenure as Music Director of the Florida Orchestra was a notable artistic success, both in the Tampa Bay region and beyond. The significant contribution he made to the cultural life of the area was recognized by the mayors of Tampa and St. Petersburg, who presented him with keys to the city in April 2002 and further honored him through a declaration of "Jahja Ling Day" in February 1998, with the Florida Orchestra, Jahja Ling was the first conductor ever invited to appear at the Super Bowl (XXV) in 1991 with Whitney Houston performing the National Anthem, and the audio and video of that performance earned platinum records. He was named Music Director Laureate in 2002. Additionally, Mr. Ling served as Artistic Director of the Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra from 1998-2001. Mr. Ling's recordings for Telarc include the Dupré Organ Symphony and the Rheinberger Organ Concerto with soloist Michael Murray and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and two albums of baroque works with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (the first of which, with trumpeter Rolf Smedvig, was nominated for a Grammy® award). In 1998, Azica Records released a disc with Mr. Ling and the Florida Orchestra entitled *Symphonic Dances*, featuring Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances* from *West Side Story*, Strauss's *Rosenkavalier* Suite, and Ravel's Suite No. 2 from *Daphnis and Chloé*. Mr. Ling and the Florida Orchestra have also recorded Stephen Montague's *From the White Edge of Phrygia* for Continuum. His performance with the New York Philharmonic of the world premiere of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's Third Symphony is featured in a recent compact disc collection of philharmonic performances entitled *American Celebrations*. Also, The Cleveland Orchestra has released a special edition compact disc featuring Mr. Ling and the orchestra performing Saint-Saëns' "Organ" Symphony for the rededication of Severance Hall's Norton Memorial Organ.

Born in Jakarta, Indonesia, of Chinese descent and now an American citizen, Mr. Ling began to play the piano at age 4 and studied at the Jakarta School of Music. At age 17, he won the Jakarta Piano Competition and, one year later, was awarded a Rockefeller grant to attend The Juilliard School, where he studied piano with Mieczyslaw Munz and conducting with John Nelson. After completing a master's degree at Juilliard, he studied orchestral conducting at the Yale School of Music under Otto-Werner Mueller and received a doctor of musical arts degree in 1985. He was also awarded an honorary doctorate by Wooster College in 1993. In the summer of 1980 Mr. Ling was granted the Leonard Bernstein Conducting Fellowship at Tanglewood and, two years later, was selected by Mr. Bernstein, who became one of his most influential mentors, to be a Conducting Fellow at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute. In 1988 Mr. Ling was a recipient of the Seaver/National Endowment for the Arts Conductor's Award, a career development grant made to American conductors of extraordinary promise.

As a pianist, Mr. Ling won a bronze medal at the 1977 Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Master Competition in Israel and was awarded a certificate of honor at the following year's Tchaikovsky International Piano Competition in Moscow. He made his Cleveland Orchestra debut as a pianist in 1987 and has appeared as both soloist and conductor with a number of orchestras in the United States and internationally. Mr. Ling makes his home in San Diego with his wife, Jessie, and their young daughters Priscilla and Stephanie. He also serves as a volunteer as Vice President of the Stephen Tong Evangelistic Ministries International.

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