

# SASCHA GOETZEL

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Vienna-born conductor shaping orchestras  
through sound, repertoire, and direction.

**ARTIST** Inspiration · Musical identity · Human connection

**ADVOCATE** Music as a force for access, education and social change

**INNOVATOR** Founder, builder, pioneer of the digital future

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Music Director · Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire (2022–2028)

Artistic & Music Director · Ulsan Philharmonic Orchestra (2025–)

Principal Guest Conductor · Kraków Philharmonic (2024–)

Co-Founder & Artistic Director · Opera by the Fjord, Norway (since 2020)

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**BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE AWARD · BEST ORCHESTRAL RECORDING 2026**

Nominated · Official announcement April 22 · London

## BIOGRAPHY

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Sascha Goetzel is Music Director of the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire (2022–2028) and Artistic and Music Director of the Ulsan Philharmonic Orchestra (since 2025). He also serves as Principal Guest Conductor of the Kraków Philharmonic and Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Opera by the Fjord, in collaboration with Bergen National Opera.

Born and raised in Vienna, Goetzel spent nearly a decade performing as a freelance violinist with the Vienna Philharmonic before devoting himself exclusively to conducting. Important artistic impulses came through studies and coaching with Jorma Panula at the Sibelius Academy, as well as through his collaboration with Seiji Ozawa, Riccardo Muti, Zubin Mehta, and André Previn.

Equally at home in the symphonic and operatic repertoire, he began his career as an opera conductor at the Tyrolean State Theatre Innsbruck under the direction of Brigitte Fassbaender, where he led the new production of the complete Mozart/Da Ponte Cycle as Music Director during the jubilee year 2006, as well as *La Bohème* over several consecutive seasons. His debut at the Vienna State Opera in 2014 with *Le Nozze di Figaro* led to further engagements over six consecutive seasons — including *Don Giovanni*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Rigoletto*, *La Bohème*, *Die Fledermaus*, and *Der Rosenkavalier*. Additional operatic engagements took him to the Mariinsky Theatre (until January 2022), Zurich Opera, the Vienna Volksoper, and opera houses in Nantes, Rennes, Montpellier, Bari and Tokyo.

During his eleven-year tenure as Artistic Director of the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra (2008–2020), Goetzel shaped one of Europe's most distinctive orchestral identities and led the ensemble to appearances at the Salzburg Festival, the BBC Proms, the Royal Concertgebouw, the Musikverein and Konzerthaus Vienna, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, as well as on numerous international tours. He previously served as Chief Conductor of the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra (2007–2013). At the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire, he increased subscription audiences by more than 30 percent during his first two seasons.

As a symphonic guest conductor, Sascha Goetzel maintains artistic relationships with orchestras across Europe, Asia, and North America. Among the ensembles with which he enjoys a long-term artistic collaboration are the NHK Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, Prague Symphony Orchestra, Slovak Philharmonic, Belgrade Philharmonic, Tonkünstler Orchestra, and the ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra. Further guest engagements have taken him to the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre National de France, the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, the Dresden Philharmonic, the Orchestra dell'Accademia Teatro alla Scala, and the EUYO. The year 2026 took him from a concert series with the Tonkünstler Orchestra in Vienna to his debut with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, concerts with the Stuttgarter Philharmoniker at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, and the final of the Concours musical international de Montréal with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal.

His interpretations are distinguished by sonic precision, finely shaped orchestral colour, and an emotional immediacy that lends the repertoire depth, tension, and urgency.

The conviction that music must have a social impact has accompanied Goetzel from the very beginning of his career. As Artistic Director of Music for Peace – El Sistema Turkey, he has enabled children from underprivileged backgrounds in Istanbul to receive free orchestral instruction for more than a decade. With Opera by the Fjord, he has established a pioneering festival and academy model for the next generation of conductors, singers, instrumentalists, and répétiteurs. As Founder of the Orpheus Foundation and Co-Founder of the Vienna Art Network, he pursues a vision of the orchestra as an active cultural force — artistically uncompromising, socially engaged, and open to innovation.

Goetzel is internationally active as a recording artist for Deutsche Grammophon, Warner Classics, Onyx, Naïve, and BIS. His collaborations with soloists such as Nemanja Radulović, Lucienne Renaudin Vary, and Fatma Said have been recognised with distinctions including the BBC Music Magazine Critics' Choice Award, Opus Klassik, and the Gramophone Award for Best Vocal Album. His BIS recording of works by Korngold, Schreker, and Krenek with the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire received the 2026 BBC Music Magazine Award for Best Orchestral Recording.

- 2006 ● *"One could almost state that not Salzburg, but rather Innsbruck, was the secret Mozart City."*  
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung · Così fan tutte · Tiroler Landestheater
- 2010 ● *"The Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic under Sascha Goetzel make a tremendously exhilarating sound."*  
BBC Radio 3 · Respighi / Hindemith / Schmitt · Onyx
- *"A notably impressive calling-card. Goetzel draws playing of hot commitment and intensity from the orchestra."*  
BBC Music Magazine ★★★★★ · Respighi / Hindemith / Schmitt · Onyx
- 2012 ● *"There is something uniquely exciting about hearing a keen young orchestra devouring difficult but exciting music whole."*  
Gramophone · Music from the Machine Age · Onyx
- 2014 ● *"5 stars for performance and sound. You'll be gripped from the first resonant trombone proclamation."*  
BBC Music Magazine ★★★★★ · Scheherazade · Onyx
- *"The orchestra made a superbly rich sound, and the whole concert glowed and shimmered like a jewel. He didn't conduct the music so much as dance it."*  
The Daily Telegraph · Ivan Hewett · BBC Proms · Royal Albert Hall
- *"This native of Vienna created a Mozart which was fresh, vital, yet always nuanced, unbelievably colourful, and was an excellent partner for the singers."*  
Der Kurier · Le nozze di Figaro · Wiener Staatsoper
- *"He is one of those magical conductors who ooze charisma, connecting with every single member of the orchestra, pulling in the audience to come along with them for the ride."*  
BBC Behind the Scenes · Royal Albert Hall · London
- 2016 ● *"It downright ignited like a firework. A wonderful advertisement for more unusual choices."*  
Frankfurter Rundschau · Alte Oper Frankfurt
- *"Goetzel hat als Orchester-Erzieher einen erstklassigen Klangkörper kreiert und diesen in die vordersten Reihen katapultiert."*  
Der Kurier · Wiener Konzerthaus · Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic
- 2017 ● *"Exciting, energetic, boldly programmed, sensitive as well as dramatic."*  
Die Presse · Konzerthaus Wien
- 2018 ● *"Goetzel galvanizes his musicians by riding the same wave of generosity, enthusiasm and frenetic ardour."*  
Classic.com · Théâtre des Champs-Élysées · Paris
- 2019 ● *"A performance of purest poetry. How is this possible? Quite simple, if all parties involved are capable and willing. Sascha Goetzel demonstrated it from the podium."*  
Der Merker · La Bohème · Wiener Staatsoper
- 2022 ● *"L'imaginaire, les phrasés, la fougue sont une force stimulante pour les musiciens de l'ONPL."*  
ClassiqueNews · Première saison ONPL
- *"If this opening concert sets the tone for the season, we strongly advise you to mark all the ONPL's appointments!"*  
Le Courrier de l'Ouest · Concert d'ouverture ONPL
- 2023 ● *"The conductor takes the Overture for what it is, a grand concert piece that he imbues with all possible variations of pace and intensity... Are we dreaming or is the ONPL transformed?"*  
Diapason · Béatrice et Bénédict · ONPL
- *"Sascha Goetzel creates the colors and atmosphere that make the enchanting duo between Héro and Ursule the highlight of the evening."*  
Le Figaro · Béatrice et Bénédict · ONPL
- 2024 ● *"Goetzel stretches musical time beyond the known world. The vertigo produced is breathtaking."*  
ClassiqueNews · Mahler Symphony No. 5 · ONPL
- 2025 ● *"Transparency, attention to detail, sculpted balance, elegance of gesture — an irresistible festival of sound."*  
Bachtrack · La Seine Musicale · ONPL
- *"Timbres biting, rhythms full of vigor — Goetzel delivers both youthful power and freshness, ONPL at the very top of its form."*  
Crescendo Magazine · François Hudry · 10/10
- *"Expressive highs and lows, dark and bright passages breathtakingly led from culmination to culmination."*  
Pizzicato · Remy Frank · ★★★★★

## PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

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## DISCOGRAPHY — SELECTED AWARDS

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### **BBC Music Magazine Award · Best Orchestral Recording 2026**

Korngold · Schreker · Krenek · ONPL · BIS Records

### **BBC Music Magazine Critics' Choice Award · ★★★★★**

Baïka · Nemanja Radulović · Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic · Deutsche Grammophon · 2018

### **Opus Klassik Award · Young Artist of the Year 2021**

Piazzolla Stories · Lucienne Renaudin Vary · Monte-Carlo Philharmonic · Warner Classics

### **Gramophone Award · Best Song Album · BBC Music Magazine Vocal Award**

Kaleidoscope · Fatma Said · Monte-Carlo Philharmonic · Warner Classics · 2022

## MANAGEMENT

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<b>CAMI Music</b>	New York · Worldwide & North America General Management
<b>Nordic Artists</b>	Scandinavia
<b>Japan Arts</b>	Japan
<b>SBU</b>	Korea

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