

Peter Jan Marthé

Conductor, Composer, "URTON-Coach"



"...who completed Bruckner's unfinished Ninth – stroke of genius or sacrilege?"
Die Welt am Sonntag (German Newspaper)

Whether it is a symphonic concert on the high plateaus of the Tyrolean Alps, a Bruckner symphony in the vast nave of an assembly factory, or at an altitude of two thousand meters on the Swiss Rigi, on the shores of Lake Lucerne; or alternatively, 'Cathedrals of Sounds' - legendary projects including Bruckner's symphonies at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, **Peter Jan Marthé**, «...*the eccentric Bruckner-Conductor and Sergiu Celibidache's resolved master student*» (Süddeutsche Zeitung) leaves a lasting impression on both the public and press with his spectacular classical music performances.

His international career has taken him from his native Austria to France, Poland, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, etc. and as far as Mexico and India. Prestigious festivals such as *Sagra Musicale Malatestiana* (Rimini), *Wiener Festwochen* (Vienna), *Musica Viva* (Munich), *Steirischer Herbst* (Graz), *Estival Festival de Paris*, *Festival d'Avignon*, among many others, also mark significant achievements of his international success to date.

After studying orchestral conducting, organ and composition at the University of Music in Vienna, his development was decisively influenced by two years of training with Sergiu Celibidache (1981/82) as well as his encounter with Yehudi Menuhin.

- 1987** Marthé interrupted his concert activity to train musically with Ustad Ameer Mohamad Khan in India for two years. This not only opened up a "whole new dimension of music-making" for him, but would also become a profound influence on his future orchestral work.
- 1994** Marthe founded along with legendary violinist Yehudi Menuhin the *European Philharmonic Orchestra*, which quickly became one of Europe's youth orchestras.
- 1995** Lord Yehudi Menuhin appointed Marthé as a 'Member of the Board of Trustees' of Menuhin's worldwide project: '*Live Music Now*'.
- 2001** The Republic of Austria awarded him the title of '*Honorary Professor*'.
- 2003** Directed the festival '*Austria Imperial*' in Innsbruck (Austria).

- 2000-2007** With the '*BRUCKNER RELOADED*' project, Marthé and the *European Philharmonic Orchestra* turned the international Bruckner days in St. Florian (Austria), into a popular pilgrimage destination for Bruckner enthusiasts from all around the world.
- 2005** Once again, Marthé caused international sensation with the world premiere of his new complete version of Bruckner's '*Third Symphony*'. «...the media and the global community of Bruckner enthusiasts now consider him, due to his unconventional recordings of Anton Bruckner's symphonies, as one of the most extraordinary Brucknerian conductors of our time...» (Bruckner-Journal, London).
- 2006** Marthé again made international headlines with his spectacular *finale* of Anton Bruckner's unfinished '*Ninth Symphony*'.
- 2008** World premiere of his '*Mass to the Earth*' (*Erdwärtsmesse*).
- 2009** Intense collaboration with Hermann Nitsch, artist of the Viennese Actionism movement and creator of the '*Orgien-Mysterien-Theater*' (*Orgies and Mysteries Theatre*). World premiere of Nitsch's '*Ninth Symphony: The Egyptian*' (*Die Ägyptische*) with the *European Philharmonic Orchestra*.
- 2010** World premiere of Hermann Nitsch's '*Symphony for a hundred pianists and a thousand fingers*' at the International Piano Festival in Linz.
- 2016** World premiere of his Oratorio '*Sound Cathedral of St. Hildegard*' (*Klangdom der Heiligen Hildegard*) in the cathedrals of Brixen (Italy), Innsbruck (Austria), and Konstanz (Germany) during the International Congress of Hildegard von Bingen.
- 2019** Retirement from the music business as a conductor in favor of his new project: **Urton***

Since then, Marthé has devoted his time and energy exclusively to the research of the age-old tradition of "*SINGING IN ONE TONE*" (*Ein-Ton-Singen*), from which the international project '*SAGRADA FAMILIA*' has emerged.

«My encounter with the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona was a decisive turning point in my life; the time had come to focus all my knowledge and skills on a single point: '*URTON-NOW!*' The aim of this project is to bring Antoni Gaudí's architectural vision into musical form: *the future unification of humans into a universal family*, reaching as many people as possible through '*SAGRADA FAMILIA URTON Concerts*' in special places of worship, temples and cathedrals around the world. Rather than attending as mere spectators, it's an experience where everyone present actively comes together to collectively build a cathedral of sound.»

Peter Jan Marthé

***Urton:** German term, practically untranslatable (formed by the prefix '*ur-*' and the noun '*Ton*' - sound, tone, nuance, etc.). '*Ur-*' denotes the origin of all things, the source of existence.