

# *Koji* KAWAMOTO

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Born in Shimane, Japan in 1972, Kawamoto is a prominent Japanese conductor, a winner of the 10th Tokyo International Music Competition for Conducting and the 59th Prague Spring International Music Competition. Since 2001 he has settled in Germany and having performed in Europe, North and South America, Russia and Asia.

2001-2007, Kawamoto was the principal conductor of the Theater Vorpommern and the principal conductor of the North East German Philharmonic.

2008-2014, he was the music director of Radio Symphony Orchestra Pilsen in the Czech Republic.

Also since the very start of his professional career, Kawamoto has frequently performed as a guest conductor with more than 50 orchestras in Europe, North and South America, Russia and Asia, including such acclaimed orchestras as Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, Thüringen Philharmonic Orchestra Gotha, Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra, Krasnoyarsk Symphony Orchestra and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2013 Kawamoto made his successful debut in China, conducting the Zhejiang Symphony Orchestra and due to the success he has been invited to conduct many orchestras in China including Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, Xi'an Symphony Orchestra, Hebei Symphony Orchestra and Qingdao Symphony Orchestra. So far now he is virtually the only Japanese conductor who is performing with so many orchestras around in China.

From 1991 to 1995 he studied conducting under the instruction of Hiroshi Wakasugi, Dr. Francis Travis, Masahisa Endo, Hiroyuki Odano, Maestro Sergiu Celibidache and Valery Gergiev in the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. After that he continued studying with Gustav Meier in the USA.

Kawamoto has now been finishing his music arts with Maestro Charles Dutoit, who is the most inspiration to him and his main master by attending Maestro's rehearsals around the world under his permission since 2009.

These days Kawamoto is expanding his professional career to the Southeast Asia and South America. In September 2017 he conducted the Japan Tour of Royal Bangkok Symphony Orchestra at the concert held in commemoration of the 130th anniversary of Thailand - Japan diplomatic relations at the Suntory Hall Tokyo, and was greatly successful, fabulously acclaimed by not only the audience but also both of the government officials present. After the tour, Kawamoto successively conducts the Royal Bangkok Symphony Orchestra every year. In September 2018 Kawamoto made his debut on the South America Continent with great success, conducting Orquesta Sinfónica Universidad de Concepción, Chile. Soon after the concert, as the result of the success, Kawamoto was asked to do the collaboration with them again, and is scheduled to conduct the orchestra in October 2019.