

NABIL SHEHATA | BIOGRAPHY

“Giving space to music” runs like a thread through Nabil Shehata's life, both literally and figuratively. As a nine-year-old, the double bass opens the door to, in his words, *“the most beautiful repertoire there is”* – namely that of classical music. As a young person, he feels the growing desire to be involved in this music as a conductor. Shehata follows this impulse, gives up his position as principal bass player of the Berliner Philharmoniker, and has since successfully embarked on a career as a conductor. A critic recently wrote that he conducts with *“authority full of ease”* an observation that corresponds precisely with what Shehata is aiming for. *“It is about resonating with each other. This is what creates music. This is what I want to achieve with orchestras”*. Shehata has developed a conducting style that is closely related to chamber music making, because he is convinced that *“this is how music is created that can achieve what audiences, orchestras, and conductors alike desire: unforgettable concert experiences!”*.

The BBC Music Magazine honoured Nabil Shehata's realisation of this intention by presenting him with the BBC Music Award for the best orchestral recording 12|2021.

Nabil Shehata's career began as principal bass player with the Staatskapelle Berlin and the Berlin Philharmonic. As a conductor, he has been mentored and taught by Christian Thielemann, Rolf Reuter, and Lawrence Forster, among others. He was chief conductor of Philharmonie Südwestfalen from 2019 to 2024 and has recently conducted as a guest, among other ensembles, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, the Stuttgart Philharmonic, the Munich Radio Orchestra, the Robert Schumann Philharmonic, and the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra. Not long ago, he made his conducting debut with great success at the sold-out Elbphilharmonie. Prior to his current position, he was the chief conductor at the Munich Chamber Opera, and broadened his experience at the Berlin State Opera as an assistant to Daniel Barenboim. As a professor of double bass in Munich and Berlin as well as a member of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, he has passed on his experience to younger musicians for many years. In his hometown of Verden, Shehata founded the “Maiklänge” chamber music festival, which is a heartfelt project for him to organize high-quality concerts where he grew up.

(As of 2024)

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Any changes or abridgements to the resume require coordination.

To do so, please contact: konzerte-neu-denken@hotmail.com

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