

"Be so kind"

The DSO remembers its founder Ferenc Fricsay

To remember its first chief conductor is more than a duty for the German Symphony Orchestra. Because reflecting on Ferenc Fricsay, who conducted in 1948 for the first time the RIAS Orchestra and was tightly associated till his early death in 1963, affected the self-awareness of the ensemble. –It concerns just as well the adaptable, transformable sound as even its large repertoire, - plus the individual commitment and clarity of interpretation.

Tugan Sokhiev, the current leader of the orchestra observes the heritage by the distance of a grand-child and conducts a program at the Philharmonic Hall, which could have been assembled by Fricsay: He and his musicians played at their very first concert "Sorcerer's Apprentice" composed by Dukas, and later on the television broadcasting including the rehearsals. "Be so kind", he demands friendly, determined, because he himself was able to play almost all instruments.

Sokhiev seems to be withdrawn that evening, wants his orchestra to be well to the fore, showing to be obliged to Fricsays ideal of orchestral sound. "His words and deeds / I realize the custom / And by mental strength / I cause miracles!" implies Goethe's ballad. This is well known to go awry, prematurely the orchestral sound spills over. - Sokhiev dedicates intensively work of revitalization at the orchestral part of Mozart's "Sinfonia concertante" KV 297b, but the orchestra soloists oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon don't find their proper development. Stravinsky's "Petrushka" is on the track of Fricsays crystal clear rhythm.

Sokhiev unveiled after the concert a painting, created by Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau in memory of the artist-friend Fricsay, with whom he started his career. Julia Varady offered it as a present to the DSO. The painting shows a thoughtful conductor with conjuring hands fulfilled by internal lights. Any evening can be a celebration, was his credo.

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