

Cairo Symphony Orchestra
Ahmed El Saedi | conductor

The Cairo Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1959 by its first conductor Franz Litschauer and has been led by renowned guest conductors such as Charles Münch, Yehudi Menuhin, Gennadi Roschdestwenski and Daniel Barenboim over the course of its existence. Soloists have included Rudolf Buchbinder, Abdel Rahman El Bacha, Jörg Demus, Ramzi Yassa, André Navarra, Stefan Vladar and Plácido Domingo.

Over the years, especially in the era under Ahmed El Saedi from 1991 onwards, the orchestra continuously expanded its repertoire with works by Bruckner, Mahler, Ravel, Debussy, Bartók, Hindemith, Stravinsky, Prokofiev and Shostakovich. Egyptian composers such as Abu-Bakr Khairat, Aziz El-Shawan, Ġamāl Abd al-Rahīm, Sayed Awad and Rageh Daoud also have a permanent place in the season programmes. Since 2002, the Arabic Perspectives Festival, founded by Ahmed El Saedi, provides a forum for contemporary composers from the Arabic region, such as Marcel Khalifé and Mayas Al Yamani.

The Cairo Symphony Orchestra has toured Europe and Asia on numerous occasions, including China, Jordan, Germany and Austria, where it made a guest appearance at the Vienna Musikverein. This year's tour will take the orchestra with the soloists Michael Barenboim and Sindy Mohamed to venues including the Cologne Philharmonie and the Pierre Boulez Saal in Berlin. <http://www.cairo-symphony.com/>

Ahmed El Saedi | conductor

Ahmed El Saedi made his international debut with the Slovakian Sinfonietta at the Vienna Konzerthaus. Since then, his international engagements as a guest conductor include orchestras and opera ensembles such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra London, the Suk Chamber Orchestra, the Poznań Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orchestre de la Société Philharmonique de Montréal, the West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra Milano Classica, the Chamber Orchestra Florentina, the Sofia National Opera, the Prague Symphony Orchestra and Prague Chamber Orchestra, the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Neotonearte Symphony Orchestra and the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra. Soloists have included Paul Meyer, Markus Schirmer, Stefan Vladar, Husseini Sermet, Abdel Rahman El-Bacha, Kjell Bakkeland and Severin von Eckardstein.

Ahmed El Saedi studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna with Othmar Suitner (conducting), Friedrich Cerha (composition) and Franz Eibner (theory after Heinrich Schenker). He also studied conducting and musical phenomenology with Sergiu Celibidache.

El Saedi's discography includes works by Glazunov, Bottesini, Beethoven and the Egyptian composer Aziz El Shawan with soloists Gerd Reinke and Ramzi Yassa, among others. His own award-winning and internationally performed compositions include works for orchestra, chamber orchestra, chamber music ensembles and voice.

Ahmed El Saedi is chairman of the Egyptian Philharmonic Society, has been chairman of the association Pro Classica Tonkunst Wien since 2012 and has been the chief conductor of the Cairo Symphony Orchestra since 2014.