



Conductor TOSHIAKI MURAKAMI

Toshiaki Murakami was born in Tokyo and studied piano with Keiko Shiono. He began studying conducting at the age of 15 under Masamitsu Takahashi and went on to study with Seiji Ozawa, Hideomi Kuroiwa, and Kazuyoshi Akiyama at the Toho Gakuen School of Music. While still a student, he became assistant to Seiji Ozawa for the New Japan Philharmonic, the Saito Kinen Orchestra, and then later for the Mito Chamber Orchestra and Wiener Staatsoper. In 1996, 1997, 2000, and 2004, he served as assistant to Gustav Kuhn, Daniel Oren and Nicola Luisotti for the Suntory Hall Opera.

In 1997, Mr. Murakami moved to Germany and studied with Mathias Husmann at Hochschule der Künste Berlin. From 2000, he studied with Leopold Hager and Yuji Yuasa at the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Wien under the Agency for Cultural Affairs overseas training program and with support from Rohm Music Foundation. In 1999 and 2002, Mr. Murakami conducted the Takemitsu Memorial Concerts at the Saito Kinen Festival Matsumoto. In 2000, he participated in the Tanglewood Music Festival as a Fellow, studying with Seiji Ozawa, Robert Spano, and André Previn. He was invited back the following year as assistant.

In 2002, he debuted with the Seiji Ozawa Music Academy production of Don Giovanni and conducted the New Japan Philharmonic at the NEC Super Tower Concert. In 2010, he conducted Hänsel und Gretel at Biwako Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Shiga. In Europe, Mr. Murakami conducted Berliner Symphoniker and the Lithuanian National Symphony Orchestra among others. He conducted numerous opera and ballet productions as permanent conductor at the Landestheater Linz in Austria from 2004 and at the Staatsoper Hannover in Germany from 2006 through 2012.

In recent years, Mr. Murakami has placed emphasis on education, actively coaching orchestras at music universities. He also performs as a pianist in chamber groups and as an accompanist to lied. Mr. Murakami is an instructor at Tokyo University of the Arts, the Toho Gakuen College Music Department, and the New National Theatre Opera Studio training program.



MARCUS ROBERTS TRIO

Piano: Marcus Roberts

Drums: Jason Marsalis

Bass: Rodney Jordan

The Marcus Roberts Trio was founded by **Marcus Roberts** in 1995.

Drummer, **Jason Marsalis**, has held the drum chair since the beginning and he has played an important role in the development of this group. **Rodney Jordan** joined the trio in 2009 and his profound musical intelligence has left an indelible mark on the sound of the trio.

Together, these three musicians are known for their quick musical reflexes and creative imaginations. With the founding of this new trio, Roberts set about creating a new jazz trio style that features all three instruments as equal partners in shaping the direction of the music. Any member of this trio can alter various aspects of the music such as its tempo, key, or meter, at any time without losing site of the melody and harmonic structure of the song. The trio members simply shift freely in a new direction at any time as if it were planned that way from the beginning.

Marcus Roberts has always believed in the importance of history. For him, a great musician is one who is steeped in a thorough understanding of the history of his art form and who has that history at his fingertips. It is this command of the music that makes it possible for him to create something new that is also truly great. The trio's completely modern sound has grown from the roots of the music from its early days in New Orleans, to the group improvisational style of the Coltrane quartet and the virtuosic performances of bebop musicians, and on to modern times. The sound of the Marcus Roberts Trio is powerfully rhythmic, strongly melodic, and filled with virtuosic group and individual improvisation.

Marcus Roberts Trio <http://marcusroberts.com>