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## Conductor KENSHO WATANABE

Kensho Watanabe has been assistant conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra since the 2016/17 season and was the inaugural conducting fellow at the Curtis Institute of Music from 2013 to 2015, under the mentorship of Yannick Nézet-Séguin. In April 2017 he came to worldwide attention when he stepped in at the last minute for an indisposed Nézet-Séguin to make his critically acclaimed debut with The Philadelphia Orchestra and pianist Daniil Trifonov. His 2017/18 season with the Orchestra has included a performance of Dvorak's Violin Concerto with violinist Hilary Hahn, and numerous Family and School Concerts. His contract for the 2018/19 season has since been renewed, and he will also conduct a subscription week with the Philadelphians next season.

Equally at home in both symphonic and operatic repertoire, Mr. Watanabe has led numerous operas with the Curtis Opera Theatre, most recently Puccini's *La rondine* in 2017 and Puccini's *La bohème* in 2015. Additionally he served as assistant conductor to Mr. Nézet-Séguin on a new production of Strauss's *Elektra* at Montreal Opera. Mr. Watanabe's future performances include a re-engagement with the Orchestre Métropolitain, and debuts with the Houston Symphony and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

An accomplished violinist, Mr. Watanabe received his Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music and served as a substitute violinist in The Philadelphia Orchestra from 2012 to 2016. Cognizant of the importance of the training and development of young musicians, he has served on the staff of the Greenwood Music Camp since 2007, currently serving as the Orchestra conductor.

Born in Yokohama to Japanese parents, he moved to the US when he was five because of his father's work. He has since been based in the US. Mr. Watanabe is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with distinguished conducting pedagogue Otto-Werner Mueller. Additionally he holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Yale College, where he studied molecular, cellular, and developmental biology.

Kensho Watanabe <https://www.kenshowatanabe.com/>



## 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>