

**Press release: 28 May 2013**

## **Spanish National Orchestra announces David Afkham as new Principal Conductor**

The Spanish National Orchestra is delighted to announce the appointment of David Afkham as its new Principal Conductor, effective from September 2015 for four years.

Afkham is rapidly establishing a reputation as one of the most sought-after conductors to emerge from Germany in recent years. He has already had successful debut engagements with many of Europe's leading orchestras, including the Royal Concertgebouw, Munich Philharmonic, Wiener Symphoniker and Philharmonia Orchestra, as well as the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Cleveland Orchestra in the USA, among others.

His appointment reflects the Orchestra's forward-looking artistic and cultural ambitions which have been developing steadily over the past few years. With a rich history dating back more than 70 years, the Orchestra's home is Madrid's Auditorio Nacional de Música, where demand is enough to sustain three repeats of each of its main subscription programmes. With two concert halls, high artistic standards, a strong national and international touring programme, a strong commitment to new music and a broad range of cultural activities surrounding its concerts, the Spanish National Orchestra attracts many of the world's leading soloists and conductors.

Félix Alcaraz, General Manager of the Spanish National Orchestra, says:

"The intensity in the way David works is deeply infectious and the Spanish National Orchestra has always responded warmly to the mixture of discipline, commitment, energy and musicianship he brings. We are delighted to welcome him to the helm of this historic orchestra and look forward to working closely with him to realise our shared ambitions for the future."

David Afkham says:

"Working with the Spanish National Orchestra for the first time in 2011 was an unforgettable experience. In my frequent visits since, I have experienced great warmth and flexibility from the players, rich imagination and a spirit of adventure from the management, and great support from Madrid's strong audiences. It is an inspiring combination and I look forward, with a great sense of privilege, to building on the Orchestra's existing achievement as we continue our journey together in the coming years."

Afkham will conduct three programmes as Principal Conductor Designate in the 2013/14 season, including music by Schoenberg, Wagner, R Strauss, Brahms and Bruckner.

When he takes up the post in 2015, he will work with the Orchestra for at least eight weeks a year.

Full details of the programmes will be announced in due course.

For further information and pictures, please contact Samantha Holderness at [samantha@albion-media.com](mailto:samantha@albion-media.com) 020 3077 4943