JAAP VAN ZWEDEN
Music Director

Jaap van Zweden began his tenure as the 26th Music Director of the New York Philharmonic in September 2018. He also serves as Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, a post he has held since 2012, and has appeared as guest conductor with many other leading orchestras around the globe, including the Orchestre de Paris, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, and London Symphony Orchestra.

In the 2019–20 season, Jaap van Zweden conducts the New York Philharmonic in seven World Premieres and symphonic cornerstones. He presides over Project 19, marking the centennial of the 19th Amendment with commissions by 19 women composers; hotspots festival, spotlighting Berlin, Reykjavík, and New York as new-music centers; and Mahler’s New York, examining the composer/conductor who spent time in New York as the Philharmonic’s tenth Music Director. During the 2020 European tour, he and the Orchestra will open the Concertgebouw’s Mahler Festival as the first American orchestra in the festival’s history. Other highlights include a new production of Schoenberg’s Erwartung and Bartók’s Bluebeard’s Castle; his first Young People’s Concert; and the low-cost Phil the Hall. He also guest conducts the Chicago Symphony, The Cleveland Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and Amsterdam’s Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Jaap van Zweden’s most recent recording is of the World Premiere performance of Julia Wolfe’s Fire in my mouth, continuing the Philharmonic’s partnership with Decca Gold. He conducted the first-ever performances in Hong Kong of Wagner’s Ring Cycle — the Naxos recordings of which earned the Hong Kong Philharmonic under his leadership the honor of 2019 Gramophone Orchestra of the Year — and his performance of Parsifal earned him the prestigious Edison Award for Best Opera Recording in 2012.

Born in Amsterdam, Jaap van Zweden was appointed at age 19 as the youngest-ever concertmaster of Amsterdam’s Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. He began his conducting career almost 20 years later, in 1996. He remains Honorary Chief Conductor of the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, where he was Chief Conductor (2005–13), served as Chief Conductor of the Royal Flanders Orchestra (2008–11), and was Music Director of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra (2008–18), where he is now Conductor Laureate. Jaap van Zweden was named Musical America’s 2012 Conductor of the Year and was the subject of an October 2018 CBS 60 Minutes profile on the occasion
of his arrival at the New York Philharmonic. Recently, he was awarded the prestigious 2020 Concertgebouw Prize.

In 1997 Jaap van Zweden and his wife, Aaltje, established the Papageno Foundation to support families of children with autism. Today, the Foundation focuses on the development of children and young adults with autism by providing in-home music therapy; developing funding opportunities for autism programs; operating the Papageno House, where young adults with autism live, work, and participate in the community; and creating a research center in the Papageno House for early diagnosis and treatment of autism and analyzing the effects of music therapy on autism. Most recently, the Foundation launched the app TEAMPapageno, which allows children with autism to communicate with each other through music composition.