

LAN SHUI, 51 MUSIC

Lan Shui joined the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) as its music director in 1997. He was the first to bring Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) to international stage through performances and recordings.

Born in Hangzhou, China, in 1957, he studied composition at the Shanghai Conservatory and conducting at the Beijing Central Conservatory. He made his professional conducting debut with Beijing's Central Philharmonic Orchestra in 1986 and was later appointed conductor of the Beijing Symphony.

In 1990, he completed his graduate studies at Boston University, United States. That same year, he conducted at the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Summer Festival, where he came to the attention of American conductor David Zinman.

In 1992, he was invited to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as conducting affiliate for two seasons. From 1994 to 1997, he was associate conductor at the Detroit Symphony. In the same period, he assisted German conductor Kurt Masur at the New York Philharmonic and worked with French conductor Pierre Boulez and the Cleveland Orchestra in Paris.

Since 1998, Lan Shui has recorded over 16 CDs for the BIS label, including music by Arnold and Hindemith with the Malmo Symphony. Notable releases with the SSO include the first-ever complete symphonies of Tcherepnin and a *Seascapes* CD, which won a place in Music Web International's 2007 Recordings of the Year. His album with the Danish Radio Symphony, *Movement*, was nominated for the 2008 Grammy Awards.

He is the recipient of several international awards from the Beijing Arts Festival, New York Tcherepnin Society, 37th Besancon Conductors Competition in France, and Boston University (Distinguished Alumni Award). He is also the chief conductor of the Copenhagen Philharmonic and has conducted other orchestras, like the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Stuttgart Radio Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, National Orchestra of Loire (France) and so on.

Currently a Singapore permanent resident, Lan Shui has led the SSO on successful tours of Germany (2000), the US, France and Spain (2005), and China (2001, 2007 and 2009) – all of which met with rave reviews. With him at the helm, the concert attendance of the SSO in Singapore has increased from 70 percent to over 85 percent.