

GYU-SEO LEE 16-17

"Having mastery and composure despite his age, Gyu-Seo Lee showed an amazing ability to focus and control tempo and dynamics. ... When I saw his conducting, I was fascinated to find that he was delivering emotions that could even be communicated to players who had never met him before. Those emotions were beyond a mere promise shared with players prior to the concert."

- Sang-Ook Chun, Arts and Culture Editor

Hailed as a conductor with a wide range of repertoires, outstanding musicality and rehearsal techniques, Gyu-Seo Lee is one of the distinguished young conductors of his generation. Having made his national orchestra podium debut at the age of only 22 with the Incheon Philharmonic Orchestra, he has already started conducting major Korean orchestras in his early 20's.

In the 2013-14 season, Lee was appointed music director and chief conductor of the Orchestral Ensemble Seoul (OES) and since then has successfully led the rising orchestra in the mainstream while being acclaimed by many for his notable collaborations with top-notch artists at home and abroad. He also continues to receive invitations from and collaborate with professional contemporary music ensembles such as Ensemble TIMF at major contemporary music festivals including the Arts Festival Dimension hosted by leading Korean composer Sukhi Kang and the Korean Music Project that promotes coexistence of Korean traditional music and contemporary music.

Born in Seoul in 1993, Gyu-Seo Lee first took up the violin when he turned five and made his debut with the Seoul Metropolitan Youth Orchestra. He was a concertmaster of his regional youth orchestra for nearly a decade and naturally grew up in an orchestra society. Then at an early age, he began to teach himself conducting based on his experiences as a concertmaster, and later systematically studied conducting techniques under conductor Mo-Young Ku. At Seoul National University, he studied with professor Hun-Joung Lim, one of Korea's most prominent conductors.

Lee is also dedicated to social service activities through music. As a young artist, he has been conscious of social issues around the world, arranging charity concerts for raising awareness of the human rights of children in need of humanitarian aid.

(translated by L. Y. Hong)