

## Mirga Gražinytė (LT)

Native of Vilnius, Lithuania, she was born into a musical family. Before pursuing her studies in Leipzig and in Zürich, she graduated with a bachelor degree in choral and orchestral conducting from the University of Music and Fine Arts, Graz, Austria. From 2007 until 2008 she furthered her studies at the Music Conservatory in Bologna, Italy. She has participated in numerous masterclasses and conducting workshops and worked with many established conductors and professors such as H. Blomstedt, S. Parkman and others. Praised as a dynamic, profound and extremely talented young conductor, she was one of the revelations of the 2009 K. Masur Conducting Seminar in Bonn, Germany, on *the Art of Conducting Beethoven*. As a result she was invited back to Bonn in December 2009 by the Beethoven Orchester and its music director S. Blunier to participate in the *Beethoven Night* and to share the podium with K. Masur and two other conductors for Beethoven's 9th Symphony in December 2010.

2009/2010 season brought a production of *Traviata* in Osnabrück as assistant to music director's H. Bäumer, concerts with the MDR Orchestra Leipzig and a collaboration with the Bergische Symphoniker. 2011 Mirga appointed 2nd Kapellmeister of the Theater and Orchestra of the City of Heidelberg. In 2007 she was the recipient of the first prize of the International Competition for Young Choral Conductors in Budapest, Hungary, and in 2008 she won the third prize at the International Conducting Competition in Stavanger, Norway.

- **And the Winner is...**

