BIOGRAPHY: CHIEN WEN-PIN
ARTISTIC AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NATIONAL KAOSHIUNG CENTER FOR THE ARTS (WEIWUYING), TAIWAN

The newly established National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying) is led by conductor Chien Wen-Pin.

Born in 1967 in Taipei, he graduated from the National Taiwan University of Arts as a pianist, and went on to Vienna to study conducting. From 1998 to 2004, he was Resident Conductor at Japan’s Pacific Music Festival, founded by Leonard Bernstein, and he became Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Taiwan in 2001, where he remained until 2007. Since 1996 he has also been “Kapellmeister” (Resident Conductor) at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf/Duisburg.

His work as a guest conductor has taken him to many international opera houses, including the Dutch National Opera, the State Opera of Hamburg, the Komische Oper Berlin, the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, and the NHK Symphony Orchestra. In 1998 he was the first Taiwanese conductor to appear at the Vienna Festival, with the Deutsche Oper am Rhein.

Chien Wen-Pin is highly regarded both for his musicianship and for the brilliance of his programming. In 2006, in Taipei he was responsible for mounting the first ever production of Wagner’s Ring cycle in the Chinese-speaking world, using predominately Taiwanese singers. He has conducted the Taiwanese premiere of a wide range of Western classical repertoire.

Since Chien Wen-Pin and his team began working at Weiwuying two years ago, he has continued with his conducting work, both at home and internationally.