



RTHK
FM 97.6



Presented by

Isaac Droscha

▶ PROGRAMME INFO & ARCHIVE
節目資料及重溫

**SUNDAYS
10-11AM**

**THURSDAYS 2-3PM
(Repeat)**

Programmes subject to change without notice.
節目如有更改，恕不另行通知。

Sergiu Celibidache
(c. 1945)

時光紀事

Anniversary Hour

One of the traditions seemingly unique to classical music is the use of birthdays — and sometimes death anniversaries — of great artists as occasions to celebrate them and their music, a custom less commonly observed in the worlds of cinema or painting, for example. Whoever first thought to turn an anniversary into an opportunity to highlight masterful pieces of music deserves a tremendous thank you — as does RTHK Radio 4 for the many wonderful anniversaries it has celebrated over the years on its airwaves.

In May, we bring you 'Anniversary Hour', a limited series celebrating the anniversaries of a host of musicians from the world of classical music, beginning with episodes on Sergiu Celibidache, Jiří Bělohlávek, Zubin Mehta, Vasily Petrenko, and Gustavo Dudamel, conductors whose list of achievements is as long as that of their controversies and hardships.

Celibidache, for instance, received his first major conducting appointment in 1945 with the Berlin Philharmonic, after Wilhelm Furtwängler was barred from conducting during post-war denazification and his replacement, Leo Borchard, was mistakenly shot dead in the middle of the night. It was a position that proved difficult to keep: Furtwängler returned as Chief Conductor in 1952, before Herbert von Karajan assumed the chief conductorship in 1956.

One might not expect orchestral conducting to be such a battleground, yet in his student days Zubin Mehta feverishly organised a pick-up orchestra in just seven days to perform at a refugee camp outside Vienna after the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. Likewise, Bělohlávek became Chief Conductor of the Czech Philharmonic in 1990 after the Velvet Revolution, following decades of government-imposed restrictions on his international travel.

Art, and sometimes artists, must struggle against the tides of history, and no one knows how their stories will unfold and be remembered. On 'Anniversary Hour', you can find out more about these remarkable journeys and wish them, and their music, a happy anniversary.