

GERMAN RADIO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA SAARBRÜCKEN KAISERSLAUTERN

For more than ten years now, the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra has been an integral part of the German orchestral music scene which is like no other in the world. The orchestra was created following the merger of the Saarbrücken Radio Symphony Orchestra (SR) and the Radio Orchestra Kaiserslautern (SWR). As one of the ARD radio symphony orchestras, it performs at the orchestra's resident locations in Saarbrücken and Kaiserslautern as well as participating in the Saarländischer Rundfunk (Saarland Broadcasting) and the Südwestrundfunk (Southwest Broadcasting) cultural programmes or giving concerts on the SR/SWR and ARTE television channels. The German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra regularly gives concerts in nearby France and Luxembourg as well as in Mainz, Karlsruhe and Mannheim. Over the past few years, the orchestra has toured Switzerland, Poland, China and Japan, and has also visited South Korea three times.

Finnish conductor Pietari Inkinen will take over the office of Chief Conductor of the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra at the beginning of the 2017/2018 season. He succeeds Briton Karel Mark Chichon, who held the position from 2011 to 2017, and Christoph Poppen, who was in charge from 2007 to 2011. The late Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, who passed away in February 2017, was closely connected with the orchestra as the Principal Guest Conductor. In 2015, at the age of 92, he was appointed Conductor Emeritus.

Core works from the classical-romantic period are at the heart of the orchestra's repertoire, but it also regularly performs premières of contemporary music and commissioned works. Thanks to the "Saarbrücken Composers' Workshop", the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra provides young composers with an opportunity to present their first orchestral works. Historically informed interpretations of pre-classical works that are prepared with specialists are also regularly featured in concert programmes along with new or rediscovered works by hitherto lesser known composers including Franco-German Romantic composer Louis Théodore Gouvy, exiled composer Werner Wolf Glaser or Israeli composer of German descent Tzvi Avni.

Promoting music is one of the orchestra's key aims. "Classical music comes to school", which features a range of children's concerts, family concerts and workshops, or the ARD School Symphony Orchestra project, is aimed at a young audience.

Be it with live concerts in concert halls, on the radio, television or on CD, the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra aims to make the extensive repertoire of a radio symphony orchestra available to classical music lovers in outstanding artistic quality. Several CDs from the orchestra's extensive discography have received international awards: recordings of piano concertos by Grieg and Moszkowski with pianist Joseph Moog were nominated for the 2016 Grammy awards, "Meditation" with mezzo-soprano Elina Garanca won the 2015 "ECHO Klassik" music award, and the recording "French Trombone Concertos" with soloist Fabrice Millischer won the 2014 "ECHO Klassik" music award. The recordings of Dvorák symphonies conducted by Karel Mark Chichon received international acclaim. CD series have been recorded

of symphonies by composers Brahms, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky and Schumann. Thanks to podcasts and streaming, it is increasingly possible for the orchestra to reach its audience via the Internet.