

GÜRZENICH ORCHESTER KÖLN

The Gürzenich-Orchestra Cologne

The Gürzenich Orchestra, firmly rooted in Cologne but open to the world, stands for ground breaking interpretations, innovative programmes and its diverse programmes and events beyond the concert hall. It is one of Germany's leading orchestras in both concert and opera - and has a tradition that has written music history like no other.

The orchestra was founded in 1827 by the Concert-Gesellschaft Köln, but its history can be traced back to the medieval cultivation of music in Cologne. Since 1888, the Gürzenich-Orchestra has been the orchestra of the City of Cologne. It delights more than 100,000 visitors in about 50 concerts per season in the Cologne Philharmonic Hall and it also performs as the Cologne Opera Orchestra in around 160 opera performances each season.

Since the 2015/16 season, François-Xavier Roth has been Gürzenich Kapellmeister and Generalmusikdirektor of the City of Cologne. Honorary conductors of the orchestra are Günter Wand (1946-1974) and Dmitrij Kitajenko.

The Gürzenich-Orchestra looks back with pride on its great past and, against this background, strives with great commitment to pass on and live on its own history. Outstanding works of the Romantic repertoire by Johannes Brahms, Richard Strauss and Gustav Mahler were premiered with the Gürzenich-Orchestra. Today, this heritage is an incentive for the approximately 130 musicians of the orchestra and its conductors to interpret tradition innovatively and to build bridges to the music of our day with courage and imagination: here, too, the Gürzenich Orchestra can point to an impressive list of important world premieres, is always on the lookout for traces and repeatedly encourages its audiences to engage with something new.

The Gürzenich-Orchestra is an orchestra for everyone, which leaves the classical concert hall full of joy and without hesitation in order to creatively inspire people in the midst of society. That, too, is a big part of its self-image. Performances in senior citizens' homes and kindergartens, workshops, concerts for schoolchildren and offers such as the family ticket inspire the most diverse groups of society for music. Initiatives such as the Cologne Civic Orchestra and the Civic Choir invite people to actively participate. Everyone, not matter if advanced or beginner, is encouraged to join us. With its live streams GO Plus as well as podcasts and videos, the Gürzenich-Orchestra is also on the move in the digital space. Its award-winning CDs enable the world to experience its uniqueness as a cultural ambassador for the city of Cologne.

From the 2023/24 season, the Gürzenich-Orchestra will be one of the three resident orchestras of the Concertgebouw Brugge, alongside the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Rotterdam's Philharmonic Orchestra.

Gürzenich Kapellmeister

François-Xavier Roth (seit 2015)

Markus Stenz (2003–2014)

James Conlon (1990–2002)

Marek Janowski (1986–1990)

Yuri Ahronovitch (1975–1986)

Günter Wand (1946–1974)

Eugen Papst (1936–1944)

Hermann Abendroth (1915–1934)

Fritz Steinbach (1903–1914)

Franz Wüllner (1884–1902)

Ferdinand Hiller (1849–1884)

Heinrich Dorn (1843–1849)

Conradin Kreutzer (1840–1842)