

Conducting Competition for an assistant

(Hans Grischkat Conducting Scholarship)

The Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen is looking for a conducting assistant for its Chief Conductor Ariane Matiakh, starting on 1 January 2027. The position is a fixed-term part-time position (50%). A conducting competition will be held to fill the position. Following the competition, the winner will be offered a paid position as assistant conductor for the period from January 2027 to July 2028. The start date as well as the exact projects for which his or her presence is required will be agreed upon after the official announcement. An average of approximately 14 days per month of attendance is expected.

The position offers the great opportunity to work with Chief Conductor Ariane Matiakh and guest conductors, as well as with a professional orchestra at the highest level, and to gain valuable practical experience.

The Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen (WPR) is one of the leading philharmonic orchestras in Baden-Württemberg. One of its hallmarks is its stylistic diversity: its own concert series for non-classical styles and the multi-award-winning WPR music education initiative 'Erlebniswelt Orchester' (Orchestra Experience) are particularly noteworthy.

The main tasks of the assistant conductor are:

- Assisting with projects led by Chief Conductor Ariane Matiakh and guest conductors, including taking charge of individual rehearsals where necessary
- Taking on your own conducting projects, e.g. children's and family concerts, "Orchesterquiz" (our digital, award-winning livestream format), special concerts such as the Orchestra Academy, Open House Day, and other events

In addition, special attention is paid to communication: applicants are expected to be able to moderate projects in German.

Conducting competition schedule

Preliminary round (digital submission)

- Application via video submission by 31 March 2026
- Announcement of semifinalists by 25 April 2026

Semifinal and final (in Reutlingen)

Friday, 26 June 2026	Arrival
Saturday, 27 June 2026	9.30-12.00 and 14.30-17.00 Semifinal, candidates 1-4
Monday, 29 June 2026	9.30-12.00 and 14.30-17.00 Semifinal, candidates 5-8 18.00 Announcement of the finalists
Tuesday, 30 June 2026	9.30-12.30 Dress rehearsal 18.00 Final (concert) (followed by jury meeting, later announcement of the winner)

Repertoire for the semifinal in Reutlingen:

- Ludwig van Beethoven – Overture to Leonore No. 3
- Carl Maria von Weber – Overture to Der Freischütz
- Eric Tanguy – Affettuoso (Scores will be sent)

Repertoire for the final (concert) in Reutlingen:

- Joseph Haydn – Symphony No. 92 in G major, Hob. I/92 “Oxford”
- Johannes Brahms – Symphony No. 2 in D major

The works to be rehearsed and the order of the candidates will be drawn by lottery immediately before rehearsal begins.

Conditions of participation

- The competition is open to graduates and students of conducting who already have sufficient conducting experience.
- All applicants must be between 18 and 35 years of age.
- All applicants must have a valid residence and work permit.
- Applicants are expected to speak German as well as English and to present their program in German during the concert.
- All selected semifinalists must be available in Reutlingen for the entire duration of the competition from Friday, 26 June to Wednesday, 1 July 2026.

The conducting competition will take place in the WPR studio in 72760 Reutlingen, Marie-Curie-Strasse 8.

- All selected semifinalists invited to Reutlingen for the competition will receive free accommodation including breakfast from Friday, 26 June to Wednesday, 1 July 2026. A contribution towards travel expenses can only be granted upon special request. Each participant is responsible for their own meals.
- By participating, all applicants confirm their consent to media and advertising activities for the competition.
- The Württemberg Philharmonic Orchestra Reutlingen is committed to the principles of equal opportunity.
- The decision of the committee is final.

Application

Please first send your letter of motivation and your CV (in table form) to info@wuerttembergische-philharmonie.de. You will then receive a personal upload link so that you can upload the rest of your application documents there. The complete application consists of:

1. Video recordings

Each applicant should submit **video recordings of two pieces of their choice**, with the camera angle facing the applicant from the orchestra side. The videos do not need to be professional, but they must be of sufficient quality (both sound and image). The minimum length of the videos in total should be 10 minutes. The recording can be made during a concert, a rehearsal or a lesson. However, speaking should be avoided if possible.

In addition, each applicant should submit **a short video statement** in which they briefly introduce themselves and express their motivation for conducting in general and their interest in the position of conducting assistant at the Württemberg Philharmonic Orchestra Reutlingen. The statement should be recorded in German.

2. **Scan of passport or ID card (and residence permit, if necessary)**
3. **Artist biography** (in text format and in German!)
4. **High-resolution photograph**
5. **Contact details (Postal address, email address and phone number)**

→ Application documents must be uploaded in full **by midnight on Tuesday, 31 March 2026**. Late applications will not be considered.

From the applications received, members of the jury will select eight candidates by 25 April 2026 to participate in the semi-final round in Reutlingen. The jury consists of Ariane Matiakh (Chief Conductor of the

WPR), Cornelius Grube (artistic and managing director of the WPR), Stefanie Eberhardt (dramaturge of the WPR) and two representatives of the orchestra.

If you have any questions, please contact info@wuerttembergische-philharmonie.de.

Hans Grischkat founded the Swabian Symphony Orchestra Reutlingen - now known as The Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen - in 1945, and served as its first Chief Conductor until 1950. He was a teacher to notable conductors such as Helmuth Rilling, Wolfgang Gönnenwein, Frieder Bernius, and Hanns-Friedrich Kunz. In addition to his conducting career, Grischkat was a choir director, church musician, and lecturer at the State University of Music and the Performing Arts in Stuttgart. As a musicologist and editor, he oversaw the series Die Kantate and focused primarily on sacred music performance material and editions.

The Conducting Competition and the Hans Grischkat Conducting Scholarship are made possible by the generous support of the Christel-Guthörle-Foundation.



We would like to thank the City Hotel Fortuna Reutlingen for its kind support of the conducting competition.

