

The Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen

Founded by the inhabitants of the devastated city of Reutlingen after the Second World War, today's Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen (WPR) has been a professional musical ensemble since 1945. It has long since become an orchestra of international renown, featuring nearly fifteen different nationalities. The WPR is the orchestra of the federal state of Baden-Württemberg.

The WPR's fundamental concept of promoting social cohesion through music and its potency is still alive today. Openness to the world and an appetite for discovery are the key characteristics of this ensemble: the orchestra deliberately targets a wide range of audiences through the diversity of its programming. In its "Erlebnisswelt Orchester," it continually invents new formats and collaborates with other regional cultural partners. Rewarded for its creativity, the WPR became part of the "Germany's Orchestra Landscape Excellence" programme in 2022 and receives federal support as a result.

In the concerts it is invited to perform in Germany and abroad, the WPR acts as an ambassador for its city and region worldwide. It collaborates as much with internationally renowned and established artists as with young rising stars of the musical world. This cooperation is not limited to the classical-romantic orchestral repertoire. One example is its kaleidoscope series, successfully dedicated to other musical genres for several decades. The orchestra performs with artists from jazz, world music, musical comedy, Latin music, hip-hop, chanson, and pop.

The WPR is intensely committed to its future audiences and reaches over 8,000 young listeners by giving around twenty-five children and family concerts in Reutlingen annually. The orchestra was awarded the "Innovative Orchestra 2019" prize by the "Deutsche Orchester-Stiftung" for its interactive live-streaming format, "The Orchestra Quiz". This was followed in 2023 by the "German Prize for Online Communication" in the "Digital Event" category for the same project.

In 2009, the WPR received the "Federal Prize for Cultural Education" for a project featuring performers with cognitive disabilities. In 2015, as the first orchestra in Baden-Württemberg, it organised a series of concerts for people with dementia. In 2016 and 2017, this was followed by an intercultural musical theatre project involving refugees, which was extended until 2018 due to popular demand.

Various CD and radio productions have documented the WPR's artistic work, including several world première recordings.

Since the beginning of the 2022/2023 season, the WPR has been led by French principal conductor Ariane Matiakh.