

The Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen

Founded in 1945, the Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen (WPR) is today a fine and vibrant orchestra widely recognised on the international scene. Serving as ambassador for the federal state of Baden-Württemberg, it has, for example, officially represented the state's cultural life on a three-week tour through Japan in 2006.

Spain, Italy, Austria, Hungary and Switzerland... on its numerous tours the ensemble has earned an ever-growing international reputation, featuring such renowned artists as Lang Lang, Edita Gruberova, José Carreras, Ruggero Raimondi, Vesselina Kasarova, Neil Shicoff, Peter Seiffert, Agnes Baltsa, Thomas Hampson and Ramón Vargas.

The WPR is renowned for lively, highly acclaimed performances at most reputed concert venues: the Goldene Saal of the Musikvereinssaal in Vienna, the Berlin and Cologne Philharmonic Halls, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, the Großes Festspielhaus in Salzburg, the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and the Zurich Tonhalle, as well as the great concert halls of Tokyo, Milan, Lucerne, Geneva and Berne.

The orchestra also makes regular guest appearances at numerous well-known festivals such as the Rotterdam Opera Festival, the Gustav Mahler Music Weeks in Dobbiaco and Brixen, the Ravello Festival, the Beethoven Festival in Warsaw, the Bodensee Festival, the Chorin Music Summer, the Herbstliche Musiktage Bad Urach, the Audi Summer Concerts and at the International Belcanto Opera Festival "Rossini in Wildbad".

At once inspired and inspiring, the Württembergische Philharmonie Reutlingen is especially noted for its stylistic range and versatility in programme planning.

At home in Reutlingen, the orchestra shapes and enriches cultural life with varied concert series, treading innovative paths and reaching new audiences. Even decades ago, it established a unique kaleidoscope series dedicated to programmes beyond the classical-romantic orchestra literature including operetta, opera galas and musicals as well as the combination of orchestral music with silent film, literature, dance, magic or mime.

In recent years, the WPR has made exciting excursions to unite musical styles, blending orchestral sound with Latin, jazz, pop, hip-hop, chanson, world music or rock. Here WPR's guests were famous artists like Klaus Doldinger, James Morrison, The King's Singers, Dominique Horwitz, Till Brönner, Charles Brauer, Roby Lakatos, Burhan Öcal and many others. Within the framework of special FOKUS events, the orchestra devoted itself to the music of Turkey (2013) and of the Jewish diaspora (2016).

The WPR is intensely committed to their future audience, offering yearly over twenty concerts in Reutlingen especially for children, young adults and families.

First offered in 2009, the "Federal Prize for Cultural Education" was awarded to the WPR for its project featuring artists with disabilities. In 2014, the ensemble was again nominated for this award for a large-scale musical theatre project at the 62nd German Mozart Festival (2013), brought to the stage with a performing and composing cast of 250 children. In 2015, the WPR established a concert series for people with dementia in cooperation with the Alzheimer Society. This was followed by FUGATO, an intercultural project involving refugees, in 2016 and 2017.

The WPR's artistic work has been documented by a variety of CD and radio productions, among them several world première recordings.

From 2008 to 2016, Swedish conductor Ola Rudner was Music Director of the WPR. Its previous artistic director was Japanese conductor Norichika Iimori. At the beginning of the 2017-2018 season, the American Fawzi Haimor has been appointed Music Director of the WPR.

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