

Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra

Founded by Karl Münchinger in 1945, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra has held a prominent position in the international orchestral world for some seven decades. Münchinger, who was principal conductor of the orchestra for over 40 years, was able to attract a small group of elite players in the early days to realise his vision of a completely new and exemplary way of interpreting works by Johann Sebastian Bach and the Viennese classicists.

Dennis Russell Davies, who was principal conductor from 1995 to 2006, re-defined the orchestra's artistic priorities to enhance the orchestra's versatility. Under his directorship the orchestra was able to distinguish itself, both in the concert hall as well as in the recording studio with repertoire from the 20th and 21st centuries including specially commissioned compositions, particularly from the composers Philip Glass and Giya Kancheli. With Davies, a complete edition of all 107 symphonies by Joseph Haydn was recorded live for Sony BMG in a unique series of concerts sponsored by Daimler Benz, extending over an eleven-year period ending in 2009.

From 2006 to 2013, Michael Hofstetter, the internationally renowned specialist for authentic performing practice, has been the orchestra's principal conductor. Further commissioned works by composers such as Siegfried Matthus, Helmut Oehring and Milko Kelemen have been added to the orchestra's already extensive contemporary repertoire during Hofstetter's chief conductorship. In 2014 the label Hänssler Classic issued a CD including the Hamburg Symphonies by CPE Bach with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra led by Wolfram Christ. Another CPE Bach recording will appear in March 2016. Julian Steckel and the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra play three Cello Concertos led by the concertmaster Susanne von Gutzeit (Hänssler Classic). Thus continues the long, illustrious recording tradition of the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, begun in Geneva in 1949 for the Decca company. Up until the present day the discography of the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra comprises several hundred published recordings.

From beginning with the 2013-14 season Matthias Foremny took over the chief conductorship of the orchestra.

Innumerable concert performances around the globe and participation in the top international music festivals have been the hallmark of the high quality and the outstanding reputation of the ensemble. Leon Fleisher, Daniel Hope, Paul Meyer, Renaud Capuçon, Steven Isserlis, Jörg Widmann, Kolja Blacher have all directed concerts with the orchestra. In recent years the orchestra has played with, among others, Julia Fischer, Fazil Say, Daniel Müller-Schott, Lars Vogt, Ian Bostridge, François Leleux, Xavier de Maistre, Emmanuel Pahud, Martin Fröst and Gautier Capuçon, Sharon Kam, Héléne Grimaud.

The Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra fulfills its function as regional ambassador with regular worldwide concert tours. After concerts in France, Spain, India and South America in the last years, the orchestra has also made recent appearances in Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Turkey, The Netherlands, The Republic of China, Japan and Korea.

Great importance is given by the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra to its engagement with local educational institutions. Besides frequent collaboration with the State University of Music and the Performing Arts Stuttgart, the orchestra is involved in educational projects with pupils and young people with impaired vision.

For its exceptional achievements, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra was awarded the 2008 European Chamber Music Prize by the European Cultural Foundation.

The Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra is supported by the German province Baden-Württemberg, the City of Stuttgart and the company Robert Bosch GmbH.

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