

## **Deutsche Radio Philharmonie** **German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra**

In the unique and multi-faceted landscape of Germany's orchestras and its regional public service broadcasters grouped under the umbrella of the ARD, the German Radio Philharmonic Orchestra (*Deutsche Radio Philharmonie*, DRP), performs in the concert halls and studios of both Saarbrücken (SR) and Kaiserslautern (SWR). The DRP was formed in 2007 when two long-established orchestras were merged: Saarbrücken's Radio Symphony Orchestra, whose conductors had included big names such as Hans Zender, Myung Whun Chung, Marcello Viotti and Günther Herbig, and the Kaiserslautern SWR Radio Orchestra whose name is indelibly linked to its long-standing chief conductor Emmerich Smola. The DRP's Honorary Conductor was conductor and composer Stanisław Skrowaczewski, who died in 2017.

Since 2017 the DRP has been led by Pietari Inkinen. He has devoted himself especially to the great symphonic repertoire as well as to the more rarely heard works of Jean Sibelius. Czech music also features regularly in the conductor's concerts, represented by its most important composers Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák. A recording of all of Dvořák's symphonies has been completed for the SWR Classic/Naxos label. For the same label Pietari Inkinen has recently recorded works by Shostakovich, Bartók and Prokofiev with the DRP.

Legendary musicians like Pinchas Zukerman and Rudolf Buchbinder also regularly make guest appearances with the DRP as do the biggest names on the classical music scene and young performers on their way to world class careers. The concert programmes draw on all the variety and breadth that the world of classical music has to offer: in addition to the core classical and Romantic repertoire and contemporary music, the DRP's concert programmes also find room for new finds and rediscoveries as well as musical works rarely performed on the concert circuit. Members of the Orchestra organise and give series of chamber music recitals in Saarbrücken, Kaiserslautern and the French border town of Forbach. Concerts

specially aimed at newcomers to classical music, families and schools are also an integral part of the Orchestra's work.

The DRP is a keen sponsor of young conductors, composers, singers and aspiring orchestra musicians. The "Saarbrücker Dirigentenwerkstatt" conducting workshop it organises with the Deutscher Musikrat allows young conductors to develop programmes of contemporary music. Since 1999 the biennial "Saarbrücker Komponistenwerkstatt" workshop has offered a testing ground for the young generation of composers, and since 2013 a "Theodore Gouvy" composition prize has been awarded. For two decades now, the annual "SWR Junge Opernstars" young opera stars competition, with its Audience Prize and DRP Orchestra Prize, has provided a springboard for international singing careers. With the "Les Jeunes" concerts, the Orchestra works with exceptionally talented young performers who have made their mark in international competitions. The beginning of 2024 will see the launch of the Skrowaczewski Academy, which will promote young orchestra musicians.

The DRP makes regular guest appearances in Mainz, Mannheim, Karlsruhe, at the Festspielhaus in Baden-Baden and at the Arsenal in Metz. Other important concert venues include the Festspielhaus in Salzburg, the Kölner Philharmonie and Philharmonie Luxembourg concert halls, the Ludwigsburg Forum and the Stuttgart Liederhalle. In recent years the DRP has toured in South Korea, Switzerland, Poland and China.

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