

The Deutsche Radio Philharmonie (DRP) is one of the largest radio symphony orchestras of ARD, the German association of public service broadcasters, jointly supported by Saarländischen Rundfunk (SR) and Südwestrundfunk (SWR). The orchestra is firmly rooted in the broadcast areas of the two radio regional stations, SR and SWR, and it plays a major role on the music scene in the border triangle between Germany, France and Luxembourg. It has toured in Switzerland, Poland, China and several times in South Korea. This season the DRP is invited to appear at the Rheingau Musik Festival, the Ludwigsburger Forumskonzerte, the Musikfestspiele Saar, the Heidenheim Opera Festival, in Erlangen and at the Internationale Wolfegger Konzerte.

Since 2017 the DRP's Chief Conductor has been Finnish conductor Pietari Inkinen. Under his baton, in concert halls and recording studios the orchestra performs the symphonies of Antonín Dvořák, Sergei Prokofiev and Richard Wagner. The DRP's repertoire also features works by composers to discover or re-discover, such as Israeli composer Tzvi Avni or the French-German Romantic, Louis Théodore Gouvy. An original touch will also be brought to the programme by this season's Artist in Residence, pianist and conductor Lars Vogt.

The DRP is also in direct contact with avant-garde composers and regularly premieres original or commissioned works. Rolf Riehm, Philippe Manoury, Thierry Pécou and Jakub Sarwas have all composed specially for the DRP, and this season will see the first performances of works commissioned from Estonian composer Jüri Reinvere and Swede Rolf Martinsson. Twice a year since 1999 the "Saarbrücker Komponistenwerkstatt" workshop has offered a testing ground for young composers, and since 2013 a "Theodore Gouvy" composition prize has been awarded. The "Saarbrücker Dirigentenwerkstatt", a conducting workshop, also allows the DRP, in conjunction with the Deutscher Musikrat (German Music Council), to put on a programme of contemporary music with young conductors. The annual "SWR Junge Opernstars" (young opera stars) competition with its audience award and DRP orchestra prize is an ideal showcase to further the careers of international singing talents.

With original concert formats like "HIN UND HÖR!" (masterpieces with commentary), "DRP PUR" (concerts without a conductor) or the open air "SR-Klassik am See" series, with film music, live-to-silent-picture concerts, firm favourites like introductory talks and interviews with performers, concerts with commentaries, plus series of children's and youth concerts such as "Musik für junge Ohren" and "Orchesterspielplatz", family concerts and digital materials for music teachers, the orchestra is constantly innovating to find new ways to connect with audiences.

The Deutsche Radio Philharmonie was formed in 2007 by merging two orchestras: the Saarbrücken Radio Symphony Orchestra (RSO) and the SWR Kaiserslautern Radio Orchestra. Its

founding chief conductor was Christoph Poppen (2007-2011). He was followed by British conductor Karel Mark Chichon, and since 2017 the orchestra has been led by Pietari Inkinen. For many years the now deceased (2017) Stanislaw Skrowaczewski was honorary conductor.

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