

Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg - orchestre national

The Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg - Orchestre national (Ops) has been in existence since 1855 and has become widely renowned thanks to conductors such as Hans Pfitzner, Otto Klemperer, George Szell, Hans Rosbaud, Ernest Bour, Alceo Galliera, Alain Lombard, Theodor Guschlbauer, Jan Latham-Koenig, Marc Albrecht and in September 2012, Marko Letonja.

Guest conductors of international renown have conducted the Ops, including Felix Mottl, Edouard Colonne, Paul Paray, Hermann Scherchen, Ernest Ansermet, Charles Munch, and Wilhelm Furtwängler whose *Te Deum* was first performed in Strasbourg in 1911. Berlioz, Brahms, Saint-Saëns, Mahler, Richard Strauss, Reger, d'Indy, Boulez, Lutoslawski and Penderecki conducted the Orchestra in performances of their own works.

During the 2005/2006 season, a varied programme including an exhibition, a picture album and a special concert among others, was offered by the Ops to celebrate its 150th anniversary. On this occasion, the Ops also welcomed the European Orchestras Forum.

The Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg with its 110 musicians has established a solid international reputation through numerous tours abroad as well as recordings and television broadcasts. The Ops has toured numerous European countries (Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Great Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Croatia, Slovakia, Spain, Italy, Greece and Poland) and went several times to Japan, Brazil or Argentina.

The Ops has also performed at renowned festivals such as in Paris, Montreux, Ascona, London, Bratislava, Besançon, Orange, Aix-en-Provence, Montpellier, Athens, the Canary Islands, Saint-Denis, Granada or the Flanders Festival. Other venues were Lisbon and Luxembourg when these towns held the European Capital of Culture title.

The Ops performs over 30 concerts each year in its hometown and is committed to reaching out to new audiences across the Alsace region. It also collaborates with the Opéra national du Rhin and takes part to numerous local musical events such as the MUSICA festival or the Festival de Musique de Strasbourg.

The Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg has recorded numerous repertoire works from the 18th to the 20th century, recordings for which it was recipient of several prizes and awards. During the 2008/09 season, the Ops under the baton of Marc Albrecht recorded for the PentaTone label Strauss's tone poems, the piano concertos of Dvorák and Schumann with Martin Helmchen, a disc of Berg's orchestral music (*Drei Orchesterstücke, Sieben Frühe Lieder, Altenberg Lieder*) with Christiane Iven, a disc of French works by Dukas, Koechlin, and Ravel (distinguished by Japan's *The Record Geijutsu* magazine), and a CD dedicated to Korngold (*Diapason d'Or* in November 2010 // "Disc of the Month" in October 2010 on *ClassicsTodayFrance.com*).

In 2001, the Association Euterpe was founded; it aims at promoting any initiative likely to enhance the orchestra's influence. Euterpe has thus authority to gather fans, music-lovers, Ops concert goers as well as partners, sponsors, patrons and companies willing to support the orchestra.

The Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg was awarded the European Symphony Orchestra Prize by the European Forum of Culture in November 1996 and the Claude Rostand Prize (best provincial lyrical performance) for the production of

Dialogue des Carmélites in June 1999. In 1994, it was given the title of "Orchestre national" by the French Ministry of Culture. In February 2006, the Ops was distinguished with the Best Recording of the Year award at the French classical music awards, "Les Victoires de la Musique Classique" for the CD dedicated to Jean-Louis Agobet's works.

Bibliography

- *Le conservatoire et l'Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg* (Geneviève Honegger)
- *Orchestre philharmonique de Strasbourg, un orchestre dans sa ville* (Hervé Lévy et Pascal Bastien) Ville de Strasbourg – Diffusion La Nuée Bleue
- *Au tempo de l'Histoire*, Catalogue de l'exposition organisée à l'occasion des 150 ans de l'OPS / Ville de Strasbourg

Discography

For a complete list of recordings, please visit: www.philharmonique.strasbourg.eu