

NDR Radiophilharmonie

Season 2024/2025

As an innovative symphony orchestra that combines high artistic quality with exceptional variety in its program, the NDR Radiophilharmonie orchestra enjoys national and international renown. Well-versed in the fields of classical and romantic symphonic repertoire as well as early music and opera, the NDR Radiophilharmonie also succeeds in addressing a broad audience with new concert ideas and venues, attracting new listeners, and setting contemporary accents in cultural life. One particular focus hereby is the development of concert formats that arouse the curiosity of the audience in a wide variety of ways. The orchestra is also very devoted to its young audience. The “Discover Music!” educational program offers children and young people specially designed concerts as well as a wide range of music education projects and hands-on activities. In total, the NDR Radiophilharmonie orchestra gives around 100 concerts per season, almost all of which are broadcast on Norddeutscher Rundfunk radio and are available online for listeners worldwide.

The NDR Radiophilharmonie, founded in Hannover in 1950 and with the NDR Konzerthaus as its home venue, collaborates with renowned figures in the music scene such as Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Julia Fischer, Igor Levit, Midori, Maurice Steger, Christian Tetzlaff, and Frank Peter Zimmermann, as well as in the crossover field with artists like the King's Singers, Brad Mehldau, or Johannes Oerding. Concert tours took the orchestra, among other places, to Asia and South America. The orchestra has performed repeatedly at the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Vienna Music Association, and the Great Festival Hall in Salzburg.

Former principal conductors of the NDR Radiophilharmonie include Eiji Oue, Eivind Gullberg Jensen, and Andrew Manze. Since the beginning of the current season, Stanislav Kochanovsky has held the position of Chief Conductor of the NDR Radiophilharmonie. The Russian conductor is one of the most interesting musicians of the younger generation. His heart beats for both symphonic music and opera. In addition to the established repertoire, Stanislav Kochanovsky is deeply committed to contemporary music and the performance of works that are rarely offered to the audience – this is clearly visible and audible in the concert programs he has developed with the NDR Radiophilharmonie in Hanover, in the wider NDR broadcasting area, and on concert tours. One special highlight this season: To mark the end of World War II 80 years ago, the NDR Radiophilharmonie will perform a memorial concert featuring Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony, the “Leningrad”, in May 2025, also offering an accompanying comprehensive music education project.

In 2023, the NDR Radiophilharmonie also created the position of Principal Guest Conductor. Jörg Widmann is now in his second season in this position, which is set to run for three years. As one of the most sought-after contemporary composers, clarinetists, and conductors, he curates and conducts various programs and can be heard in the broad range of concert formats of the NDR Radiophilharmonie. In his concerts, Jörg Widmann combines pieces from the 18th and 19th centuries with contemporary works by him and others, in this way casting light from the present onto the familiar core repertoire of the orchestra.