

NDR Radiophilharmonie



Diversity and quality are the trademarks of the NDR Radiophilharmonie orchestra from Hanover. 86 highly skilled musicians represent an impressive variety in their programme: in addition to the great classical and romantic repertory, they also cultivate early music. Crossover projects, movie soundtracks and a wide range of different concerts for children and youth reach a large audience.

Over the last 20 years, NDR Radiophilharmonie, with its principal conductors Eiji Oue, Eivind Gullberg Jensen, and currently Andrew Manze, has closed the gap to the leading symphony orchestras. International top artists complement the musical work of the orchestra, among them, besides such classical music greats as Anne-Sophie Mutter, Hilary Hahn, Rudolf Buchbinder, Sir András Schiff, Andris Nelsons, Gustavo Dudamel and Andrés Orozco-Estrada, also experts for early music like Reinhard Goebel, Giuliano Carmignola and Philippe Jaroussky.

As musical ambassador for the city of Hanover and the German state of Lower Saxony, NDR Radiophilharmonie has an outstanding reputation internationally. In the recent past, the ensemble has gone on tour, among others, in Asia and South America, and has repeatedly given guest performances at the Pisa Festival, the Clubhouse Concerts in Switzerland or the Norwegian Bergen International Festival. In 2011, the orchestra gave its acclaimed debut in the sold-out Royal Albert Hall in London. Additional highlights were concerts in the Vienna Musikverein and the Großes Festspielhaus concert hall in Salzburg.

Particularly the close cooperation with principal conductor Andrew Manze, who has held this position since the 2014/15 season, represents a decisive step on the artistically ambitious path of NDR Radiophilharmonie. The orchestra's first CD was published under its principal conductor in early March 2017: Felix Mendelssohn's Symphonies Nos. 1 and 3. This is the first in a series to publish all of Mendelssohn's

symphonies with the Dutch label Pentatone. Also in March of 2017, the continued cooperation between Andrew Manze and the NDR Radiophilharmonie orchestra was extended until 2021 with a second renewal of his contract.

Other signs that NDR Radiophilharmonie is innovating itself can be seen from its social commitment, for example the foundation of the 'Joseph Joachim Akademie e.V.' orchestra academy, whose goal it is to make it easier for university graduates to start their lives as professional musicians. March 2017 moreover marked the foundation of the 'Freunde und Förderer' (friends' and supporters') association for the orchestra, offering interested persons additional opportunities to get into contact with the musicians.

Almost all concert projects of NDR Radiophilharmonie are broadcast by the NDR public radio and television broadcaster and are available online all over the world.

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Andrew Manze

Principal Conductor, NDR Radiophilharmonie



Andrew Manze is widely celebrated as one of the most stimulating and inspirational conductors of his generation. His extensive and scholarly knowledge of the repertoire, together with his rare skill as a communicator and his boundless energy, mark him out.

From the 2014-15 season Manze became the Principal Conductor of the NDR Radiophilharmonie in Hannover. His contract has recently been renewed, for the second time, until summer 2021. In addition to a busy touring schedule within Germany and Austria, they had a highly successful tour to China and South Korea in autumn 2016 with Sir András Schiff as soloist. In 2017-18 they toured the UK and they will return to the Far East in autumn 19. They have embarked on a major series of recordings for Pentatone initially focussing on the orchestral works of Mendelssohn.

In great demand as a guest conductor worldwide Manze has long standing relationships with a number of leading international orchestras including the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Munich Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic

Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic, the Hallé, Camerata Salzburg and the Scottish and Swedish Chamber Orchestras. He is also a regular guest at the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York City. He has a close relationship with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, with whom he is in the process of recording the complete Vaughan Williams symphonies for Onyx Classics.

In 2017-18 Manze made his debut with the Concertgebouw Orkest, Bamberg Symphony, NDR Elbphilharmonie and the Melbourne Symphony. He also returned to the New York Philharmonic and Los Angeles Philharmonic.

From 2006-14, Manze was Principal Conductor and Artistic Director of the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra. With the orchestra, he made a number of recordings, including Beethoven Eroica (Harmonia Mundi) and a cycle of Brahms symphonies (CPO). From September 2010 to August 2014, Manze held the title of Associate Guest Conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and he was Principal Guest Conductor of the Norwegian Radio Symphony Orchestra from 2008-2011.

After reading Classics at Cambridge University, Manze studied the violin and rapidly became a leading specialist in the world of historical performance practice. He became Associate Director of the Academy of Ancient Music in 1996 and then Artistic Director of the English Concert from 2003 to 2007. As a violinist, Manze has released an astonishing variety of CDs, many of them award-winning.



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Manze is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music and a Visiting Professor at the Oslo Academy and has contributed to new editions of sonatas and concertos by Mozart and Bach published by Bärenreiter, Breitkopf and Härtel. He also teaches, edits and writes about music, as well as broadcasting regularly on radio and television.

In November 2011 Andrew Manze received the prestigious 'Rolf Schock Prize' in Stockholm.

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Kuss Quartet



Jana Kuss, Violin
Oliver Wille, Violin
William Coleman, Viola
Mikayel Haknazaryan, Cello

With its unique approach to music-making, the Kuss Quartet ranks amongst the world's bestrenowned ensembles. "Worlds away from shallow showmanship" its members constantly strive for interpretations of a "revelatory nature", "whose individuality (is derived) entirely from a deep and comprehensive exploration of the idiosyncrasies of each work." (Frankfurter Rundschau)

Deep understanding of a work takes time to mature – that is self-evident for the Kuss Quartet; as is the courage, borne of personal discoveries, to develop their passion for experimentation. This is what the Kuss Quartet has stood for since the beginning of its professional career in 2002. The two founder members, Jana Kuss and Oliver Wille (violin) have been travelling the same musical path for 25 years. Together with their colleagues William Coleman and Mikayel Haknazaryan, they are pioneers of a concept-based presentation of chamber music, which reveals new musical perspectives and attracts a wide-ranging and cultured audience.

'Kuss Plus' -the ensemble's classical lounge series - has become legendary in its success, making its mark on the Berlin music scene and getting close to its audience, not only in the literal sense. However, even whilst performing in cult clubs, classical music remains the quartet's top priority. The exceptional openness of the players can be seen in their boundary-breaking concerts combining compositions for quartet with works of

literature. Regular collaborations between the quartet and renowned actor Udo Samel have led to invitations for the five to perform in numerous festivals and concert halls in Germany and Austria, with programmes such as 'Ohne Grund nicht denken' (Brecht/ Berg/ Beethoven), 'Traumbilder' (Heine/ Mendelssohn/ Schumann) and 'Das Rauschen der Zeit' (Mandelstam/ Stravinsky/ Tchaikovsky).

In 2002 the Kuss Quartet was awarded first prize by the German Music Council and in the Borciani competition. The following year they won the Borletti-Buitoni Award and were selected for the European Concert Hall Organisation's 'Rising Stars' programme. Their international career has taken them from New York's Carnegie Hall to Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, from London's Wigmore Hall back to the Philharmonie in Berlin, their home city. Frequent engagements at major festivals include the Schubertiade Schwarzenberg, the Beethovenfest Bonn, Rheingau Musikfestival and the Edinburgh and Salzburg festivals, and they have toured the USA, Australia, South America and Japan.

The Kuss Quartet inspires the next generation of chamber musicians in numerous international masterclasses. Furthermore, William Coleman (in Salzburg) and Oliver Wille (in Hannover and Birmingham) hold professorships at European music colleges.

In terms of repertoire the Kuss Quartet casts its net wide, ranging from the music of the Renaissance to compositions by Helmut Lachenmann, Aribert Reimann and György Kurtág, with whom the group has close contact. Thanks to a grant from the state of Lower Saxony, the quartet are able to commission new works over the coming four years, including first performances of compositions by Bruno Mantovani, Aribert Reimann and Enno Poppe.

Following the success of their album 'Bridges' (Sony Classical), the English label Onyx Classics released the highly-acclaimed concept CD 'Theme Russe' in January 2012, with works and transcriptions by composers including Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky and Schnittke. In November 2013 a third disk was released by Onyx Classics: Schubert's quintet with cellist Miklós Perényi – a musician with whom the quartet are particularly fond of working. In October 2016 Onyx Classics released a new disc with Schoenberg's second quartet (with Mojca Erdmann), Brahms's third quartet and Brahms Lieder for soprano and string quartet arranged especially for the ensemble. The quartet enjoys further collaborations with artists such as Avi Avital, Paul Meyer, Pierre-Laurant Aimard, Mojca Erdmann and slam poet Bas Böttcher.

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Melanie Chae – Accompanist



After her performance of the Grieg Piano Concerto with the Korean Symphony Orchestra at the age of thirteen, Melanie M. Y. Chae was proclaimed a ‘sensational young pianist’. She studied with world-renowned teachers, including Patsy Toh, Yonty Solomon, and Irina Zaritskaya.

She has received awards in numerous international competitions, including first prizes at the Zinetti International Chamber Music Competition and the Maria Canals International Music Competition (2004), second prizes at the Concorso Internazionale di musica ‘Città di Pinerolo’ (2001) and the Beethoven Intercollegiate Piano Competition (2001), and the special prize at the Concorso Internazionale di Esecuzione Musicale Provincia di Caltanissetta.

Melanie Chae is also a devoted chamber musician. She has performed in various chamber music concerts and collaborated with musicians such as Boris Kuschnir, Pavel Vernikov and Igor Ozim. Her chamber music partners include Julian Rachlin, Lidia Baich, Alisa Weilerstein, and her husband Edwin E. S. Kim. She has recorded the Scriabin Preludes with Decca.

Chae frequently performs with Edwin E. S. Kim. Her soloist endeavors have taken her to Vienna, London, Lindau, Koblenz, Seoul, and Daegu. She has performed at venues such as St. Martin-in-the-Field, Regent’s Hall, the Purcell Room (UK), Little Angels’ Concert Hall, Seoul (Korea), the Stadttheater Lindau (Germany), the Gesellschaft für Musiktheater Wien, Konzerthaus (Vienna), the Palau di Musica (Spain), and many others. She has, among other ensembles, performed with the Melos Chamber Orchestra, the Korean Chamber Orchestra, the Korean Soloists, and the Bulgarian Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Melanie Chae has been a piano accompanist at the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover since 2009. She has released CD albums with Edwin E. S. Kim in 2008 and in 2010. As a concert pianist, she currently performs throughout Europe and Asia.

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Rohan De Silva – Accompanist



Rohan De Silva's partnerships with violin virtuosos Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Midori, Joshua Bell, Kyoko Takezawa, Vadim Repin, Gil Shaham and Julian Rachlin have led to highly acclaimed performances at recital venues all over the world.

He appeared in recital worldwide with Itzhak Perlman. Alongside Mr. Perlman, he performed multiple times at the White House, most recently in 2012 at the invitation of President Barack Obama for the Israeli President and Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree Shimon Peres and at a State Dinner in 2007 for Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II hosted by President George W. Bush.

In 2014/15, Mr. De Silva appeared with Mr. Perlman in cities across North America, including New York, Boston, Hartford, Toronto, Nashville, San Francisco and Los Angeles, among others.

Mr. De Silva, a native of Sri Lanka, spent six years at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He was the first recipient of a special Scholarship in the arts from the President's Fund of Sri Lanka which enabled him to enter the Juilliard School, where he received both his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees. He was awarded a special prize as Best Accompanist at the 1990 Ninth International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, and received the Samuel Sanders Collaborative Artist Award presented to him by Itzhak Perlman at the 2005 Classical Recording Foundation Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall.

Mr. De Silva joined the collaborative arts and chamber music faculty of the Juilliard School in 1991, and in 1992 was awarded honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. He additionally served as a faculty member at the Great Wall International Music Academy in Beijing, China, at the International String Academy in Cambridge, UK, since 2011, and the Faculty of the Perlman Music Program from 2000-2007.

Mr. De Silva recorded for Deutsche Grammophon, CBS/SONY Classical, Collins Classics in London, and RCA Victor.

Photo credit: © John Beebe

Thomas Hoppe – Accompanist



Thomas Hoppe is recognized as one of the most exceptional collaborative artists of his generation.

He has concertized with such eminent artists as Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, Antje Weithaas, Tabea Zimmermann, Alban Gerhardt and Frans Helmerson, to name but a few, and maintains a demanding performance schedule.

As pianist of the ATOS Trio and the ensemble 4.1 piano windtet he performs throughout the world to highest acclaim.

Hoppe has taught masterclasses in Collaborative Piano and Chambermusic in Europe, China, Australia, South America and the USA, and is official pianist for many international competitions, including International Joseph Joachim Violin Competition Hannover, Queen Elisabeth Competition Brussels, International Violin

Competition of Indianapolis and Grand Prix Emanuel Feuermann Berlin.

He was a student of Maestro Lee Luvisi, and later completed his studies at the Juilliard School of Music, where he worked as studio pianist for Dorothy Delay and Itzhak Perlman.

Thomas and his family reside in Berlin, where he is full time faculty at Hochschule für Musik 'Hanns Eisler'.

Photo credit: © Thomas Hoppe

Boris Kusnezow – Accompanist



Pianist Boris Kusnezow's breakthrough came in 2009, when he was awarded the German Music Competition Prize. Soon thereafter was his debut at the Carnegie Hall, which received excellent reviews from the New York Times: a 'most impressive interpretation'.

Born in Moscow, Boris Kusnezow began his musical education at the renowned Gnessin Academy. Since the age of eight he has been living in Germany and completed his studies with Prof. Bernd Goetzke in Hanover.

First prizes in international competitions, a fellowship from the well-known British Borletti-Buitoni Trust, scholarships from Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben and Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes as well as multiple CD-recordings all constitute important milestones in his musical career.

Alongside solo performances, the pianist has developed a particular passion for chamber music and Lied accompaniment. As a result Boris Kusnezow gives concerts worldwide in various chamber music ensembles as well as with notable soloists. In Germany he has performed in Laeishalle Hamburg, Konzerthaus am Gendarmenmarkt, Prinzregententheater and Gasteig in Munich and at Berlin Philharmonie.

Boris Kusnezow lives in Hanover and teaches at the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media and at the Hochschule für Musik 'Hanns Eisler' Berlin.

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Natsumi Ohno – Accompanist



The pianist Natsumi Ohno was born in Japan and began studying music in Tokyo. She later completed her Konzertexamen with Prof. Bernd Goetzke at the Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media. In addition to her soloist training, she specialized in song accompaniment in Justus Zeyen's class as well as instrument accompaniment for strings and woodwinds. During her studies, she received stipends from the Tokyo College of Music as well as the Yehudi Menuhin foundation 'Live Music Now'.

Natsumi Ohno is an awardee of the International Chamber Music Competition 'Premio Trio di Trieste' and of the International Piano Competition 'Citta di Sulmona' in Italy. She has appeared as an accompanist at a variety of violin competitions, music festivals and masterclasses, including the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition Hannover, the Singapore International Violin Competition, the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, recitals at the

Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the International Festival of Young Violin Masters Lindau, the IMAS International Music Academy in Germany, the International Holland Music Sessions, the Morges Music Academy in Switzerland, the Summer Academy Cervo in Italy, the Strings Concert Academy in San Marino and the Gdansk Music Festival in Poland.

She has worked with such celebrated professors as Krzysztof Wegrzyn, Pierre Amoyal, Hatto Beyerle, Dag Jensen, Martin Ostertag, György Pauk, Ulf Schneider, Krzysztof Smietana, Andriy Vityovych und Tilmann Wick.

Natsumi Ohno is full time faculty at Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media.

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