

Das Bundesjugendorchester – Play, Promote, Inspire!

The German National Youth Orchestra is Germany's youngest major orchestra, founded by the German Music Council in 1969 and made up of the country's finest young musicians between the ages of 14 and 19. In addition to Sir Simon Rattle, distinguished conductors such as Herbert von Karajan, Kurt Masur, Gustavo Dudamel, and Kirill Petrenko have led the orchestra; soloists have included Christian Tetzlaff, Tabea Zimmermann, and Fazil Say, as well as the rock musicians Sting and Peter Dinklage. In 2016, the orchestra – together with the conductor Alexander Shelley and Campino from the group "Die Toten Hosen" – was awarded an Echo Klassik prize in the category "Classic for Children". In 2013, the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra assumed an official mentoring role for the youth orchestra, which is invited each year to the Easter Festival in Baden-Baden for concerts under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle, who wrote: "What an enormous pleasure to meet this wonderful next generation of colleagues! I think the future of orchestras is safe in your hands..."

The young musicians qualify by auditioning for a jury of professionals. During intensive work phases, they prepare significant orchestral works from all periods; contemporary music and premieres of new compositions are an integral part of the repertoire.

Tours have taken the group throughout Europe, as well as to Asia, Africa, and North and South America. The orchestra has participated in numerous projects of historical significance, including a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift with Kurt Masur in New York and concerts in Johannesburg and Cape Town as part of the cultural activities preceding the World Cup football games in 2010. The orchestra opened the German Year in Mexico City in 2016, and in 2017 toured for the second time with the German National Youth Ballet, this time with a program called "Summit Meeting – Reformation".

The orchestra's work is generously supported by the German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Daimler AG, the City of Bonn, GVL (German Collecting Society for Performing Rights), DOV (Union of German Orchestra Musicians), the German National Youth Orchestra Foundation, and numerous private donors.

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