

## The National Youth Orchestra of Germany – Play, Promote, Inspire!

The National Youth Orchestra of Germany 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 Maffay. Since 2018, Sir Simon Rattle is Conductor Laureate of the National Youth Orchestra: *“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 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Berlin Airlift with Kurt Masur in New York and concerts in Johannesburg and Cape Town as part 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”. In 2018, the young musicians of the National Youth Orchestra of Germany toured India, Romania, Italy and Canada, in 2019 South Africa.

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