

# GÜRZENICH ORCHESTER KÖLN

The Gürzenich-Orchestra, firmly rooted in Cologne but open to the world, stands for groundbreaking interpretations, innovative programs and diverse outreach projects. We are one of Germany's leading orchestras in both concert and opera - and have a tradition that has written music history like no other.

The orchestra was founded in 1827 by the Concert-Gesellschaft Köln, but our roots can be traced back to the medieval *Musikpflege* of music in Cologne. Since 1888, we have been the orchestra of the city of Cologne. We delight more than 100,000 visitors in about 50 concerts per season in the Cologne Philharmonic Hall. We also perform as the Cologne Opera Orchestra about 160 performances each season.

Since the 2015/16 season, François-Xavier Roth has been Gürzenich Kapellmeister and Generalmusikdirektor of the City of Cologne. In this position he joins a glorious line of predecessors: Ferdinand Hiller (1850-1884) or Franz Wüllner (1884-1902), honorary conductor Günter Wand (1946-1974) and Dmitri Kitajenko and, since 1986, the principal conductors Marek Janowski, James Conlon and Markus Stenz.

From 2025/26 on, Andrés Orozco-Estrada is the designated Gürzenich-Kapellmeister and Generalmusikdirektor of the City of Cologne.

It is with pride, that we look back on our great history: Outstanding works of the Romantic repertoire by Johannes Brahms, Richard Strauss and Gustav Mahler were premiered with the Gürzenich Orchestra. Today, this legacy is a strong incentive for us to build bridges to the music of our day: here, too, we can point to an impressive list of important premieres.

About 150 musicians of the international top class make us with heart and soul what we are: an orchestra on the highest level and with unlimited possibilities of expression. We are eager and joyfully jump right into the centre of society – leaving the traditional concert hall behind – and inspire people with our creativity. Therefore, performances in senior citizen facilities and kindergartens as well as many offers for families and schools are especially close to our hearts. Initiatives such as the Cologne Civic Orchestra and the Cologne Civic Choir invite people to actively participate.

Multi-award-winning CDs enable the world to experience our uniqueness as cultural ambassadors of the city of Cologne.

From the 2023/24 season, we will be one of three resident orchestras of the Concertgebouw Brugge, along with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest.