



Sinfonieorchester Basel

The Sinfonieorchester Basel is one of Switzerland's most distinguished and long-established orchestras. Thanks to the outstanding musical and ensemble skills of its musicians, as well as a long-standing tradition of collaboration with its principal conductors, the Sinfonieorchester Basel ranks among the world's leading orchestras.

Founded in 1876, the orchestra celebrates its 150th anniversary in the 2025/26 season. At the same time, it has embarked on a multi-year cycle of all Gustav Mahler's symphonies with its new principal conductor, Markus Poschner. As an orchestra steeped in tradition, the Sinfonieorchester Basel delights its audiences as the resident orchestra in the historic and acoustically outstanding concert hall of the Stadtcasino Basel, as well as in opera productions at the Theater Basel. Over 100 musicians from 25 nations play in the Sinfonieorchester Basel.

At the start of the 2025/26 anniversary season, Munich-born conductor Markus Poschner took over the musical direction of the Sinfonieorchester Basel as its 14th principal conductor since 1876. He succeeds conductors such as Hermann Suter (1902–1926), Felix Weingartner (1927–1934), Moshe Atzmon (1972–1986), Mario Venzago (1997–2003) and Ivor Bolton (2016–2025), who have had a significant influence on the orchestra's artistic profile.

A particular highlight of the 2025/26 anniversary season is the launch of an ambitious Mahler cycle, which will run until 2030. This cycle builds on Moshe Atzmon's last Mahler cycle and the orchestra's historical connection to Gustav Mahler, who personally conducted the orchestra in the Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*, at the Tonkünstlerfest in 1903 in Basel.

The Sinfonieorchester Basel is distinguished by its refined musical culture and artistic excellence. Its repertoire ranges from the Viennese Classical period through the Romantic era to compositions of the recent modern era. The orchestra has premiered numerous significant works of the 20th and 21st centuries, including those by Johannes Brahms, Arthur Honegger, Bohuslav Martinů, Krzysztof Penderecki, Dieter Ammann, Andrea Scartazzini and Unsuk Chin. The orchestra maintains a close collaboration with the Paul Sacher Foundation in Basel. The unique collections held there, belonging to composers such as Igor Stravinsky, Johannes Brahms, Witold Lutosławski, Kaija Saariaho and Wolfgang Rihm, serve as both inspiration and a commitment for the orchestra to perform their works on a regular basis.

The Sinfonieorchester Basel enjoys a high international reputation. Its tours take it to the major musical centres of Europe, the UK and Asia. Its artistic quality is also reflected in radio and television broadcasts, as well as in various award-winning CD recordings, including most recently recordings of Antonín Dvořák (2025), Ernest Chausson (2025) and Camille Saint-Saëns (2023). The latter was awarded the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik (German Record Critics' Award). Mario Venzago's recordings of the Schumann symphonies and Marko Letonja's complete recording of all Felix Weingartner's symphonies have each received a *Diapason d'or*. In 2026, the first CD in the Basel Mahler cycle under Markus Poschner, featuring Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2 in C minor, *Resurrection*, will be released on the Prospero Classical label.

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