

KURPFÄLZISCHES KAMMERORCHESTER E.V.

The Mannheim Chamber Orchestra was founded in Mannheim in 1952 with the aim of rediscovering and preserving the Mannheim School (1743–1778). Today, it is regarded as an exceptionally versatile ensemble with a broad repertoire ranging from the Baroque to the modern era, with a particular focus on the early Classical and Classical periods. In the tradition of the Mannheim Court Orchestra during the time of Elector Carl Theodor, the Rittersaal in Mannheim Palace remains the orchestra's main venue to this day.

Under Carl Theodor, Mannheim developed into one of Europe's most important centres of music in the 18th century. Composers such as Johann Stamitz, Franz Xaver Richter, Ignaz Holzbauer and Christian Cannabich shaped a new orchestral culture there, the influence of which is still felt today. With the court's relocation to Munich in 1778, this glorious era gradually faded into obscurity – until the Mannheim Chamber Orchestra breathed new life into it.

Following in the footsteps of its founding conductor, Eugen Bodart – a composer and former General Music Director of the Mannheim National Theatre – it was above all the composer and violinist Wolfgang Hofmann who shaped the orchestra's artistic profile. Under his long-standing artistic direction, the Mannheim Chamber Orchestra established itself as an integral part of the national and international music scene. In its tireless endeavour to bring the rich treasure trove of works from the Mannheim School back into the public eye, the ensemble has given numerous concert performances, made radio and recording appearances, and produced editions of works – enabling many significant works to find their way back into concert programmes worldwide.

With its long-established series, the 'Mannheim Palace Concerts' in the Rittersaal of Mannheim Palace and the 'Hambach Palace Concerts' in the Festsaal of Hambach Palace, the Mannheim Chamber Orchestra is firmly rooted in the region's musical life. It also makes regular guest appearances throughout Germany and far beyond, including in renowned concert halls such as the Invalides in Paris, the Tonhalle in Zurich, the Philharmonie Luxembourg and the Seoul Arts Centre, as well as at international festivals. With between 80 and 100 concert performances each year, the orchestra keeps the rich musical heritage of the Mannheim School alive. Collaboration with internationally acclaimed soloists, as well as the promotion of up-and-coming musical talent, characterise the ensemble's artistic identity.

The Mannheim Chamber Orchestra is also constantly developing new concert formats aimed at fostering dynamic progress in the outreach of classical music. Special school projects bring the entire orchestra directly into schools. The 'Dream Concerts in the Castle' are extremely popular and successful; they have now achieved cult status and allow the audience to experience music from an unusual perspective – namely whilst lying down.

Paul Meyer has been Principal Conductor of the Mannheim Chamber Orchestra since the 2018/2019 season. Under his artistic direction, the ensemble combines a commitment to the Mannheim tradition with an openness to new repertoire and international collaborations, particularly within the French music scene.



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