

WIENER SYMPHONIKER

SEIT 1900

PRESS INFORMATION

2024–25 Season

Content

ORCHESTER DER STADT – 125 YEARS WIENER SYMPHONIKER.....	2
PETR POPELKA.....	9
WIENER SYMPHONIKER.....	6
NUMBERS & FACTS.....	5
MARIE JACQUOT.....	9
GUEST CONDUCTORS 2024–25.....	10
SOLOISTS 2024–25.....	11
SUBSCRIPTION & SERVICE.....	12
PRESS PHOTOS.....	13

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ORCHESTER DER STADT

125 Years Wiener Symphoniker

The Wiener Symphoniker are celebrating their 125th anniversary with a very special concert season, which is also the first season of its new chief conductor Petr Popelka. The orchestra will revisit its history in numerous concerts, including works premiered by the Wiener Symphoniker. Former chief conductors such as Philippe Jordan and Fabio Luisi will also return. The list of anniversary guests alongside Petr Popelka and Principal Guest Conductor Marie Jacquot is international and diverse. Among others, French conductor Natalie Stutzmann will make her orchestral debut, Russian conductor and music director of the Munich State Opera Vladimir Jurowski will appear, as will Chinese conductor Elim Chan, British conductor Robin Ticciati, French conductor Alain Altinoglu, German conductor Christoph Eschenbach and young Czech conductor Václav Luks. This season's great soloists include violinists Isabelle Faust and Renaud Capuçon, pianists Martha Argerich, Rudolf Buchbinder and Anna Vinnitskaya and cellists Kian Soltani and Edgar Moreau.

The Wiener Symphoniker were founded 125 years ago as the "Wiener Concert-Verein", whose purpose was "the organisation of symphony concerts at moderate admission prices, as well as popular orchestral concerts, at which classical works are to be performed in appropriate combination with works of a lighter nature, but of musical value".

Artistic Director Jan Nast explains that the anniversary season is all about renewing these values in the present: "The Wiener Symphoniker are a modern orchestra for everyone in the city, an orchestra that every Viennese should come into contact with at least once a year, an orchestra that is as successful in its breadth as it is in its musical quality." The anniversary season under the motto "Orchestra of the City" has been prepared in recent years with the themes "Pulse of the City", "In the Centre of the City" and "Echo of the City".

"For me, the Wiener Symphoniker are a modern orchestra that touches everyone with its passion and quality," says Petr Popelka. "It's such a great pleasure that in this anniversary season we can, on the one hand, commemorate the pioneering spirit of the Wiener Symphoniker and, on the other, carry on the flame of a cosmopolitan and participatory orchestra whose message speaks to people."

"Our journey to the anniversary season began four years ago with a major rebranding process in which the musicians were actively involved," explains Jan Nast. "Visually, we orientated ourselves towards the turn of the century, when the Wiener Symphoniker shaped modern music. In the anniversary season, we are commemorating the legendary premiere at the Musikverein with the opulent Gurre-Lieder. Schönberg himself conducted the world premiere of his symphonic poem Pelleas and Melisande, and The Book with Seven Seals by Franz Schmidt was also a ground-breaking premiere that we are commemorating in the anniversary season." The Wiener Symphoniker will also play Bruckner's 9th Symphony, which they premièred in a version by Ferdinand Löwe, and Gustav Mahler's 6th Symphony, at whose Austrian première the



composer once conducted the orchestra himself. The commission to Marcus Nigsch for a new cello concerto continues the great tradition of world premieres.

Tours will take the Wiener Symphoniker with Petr Popelka through Europe and to China, with Marie Jacquot through Germany and with Patrick Hahn through Austria. Petr Popelka will also conduct the new format "Spring from Vienna", in which the orchestra will take up residency for the first time with four concerts on the Adriatic.

The Wiener Symphoniker as an opera orchestra

The Wiener Symphoniker will once again be heard as an opera orchestra at the Bregenz Festival this year, including a new production of *Freischütz* by Carl Maria von Weber (conducted by Enrique Mazzola), and at the MusikTheater an der Wien, where they will perform Mozart's *Idomeneo* (with David Bates), Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma* (with Francesco Lanzilotta) and the children's opera *The Little Prince* (conducted by Gábor Káli).

Chamber music at the Wien Museum

This season, the six chamber music concerts will take place in the reopened Wien Museum, where they are traditionally orientated around the individual exhibitions, admission to which is included in the concert price, along with a guided tour.

200 Years Johann Strauss

Of course, the Wiener Symphoniker will also be involved in the anniversary year celebrating the 200th birthday of Johann Strauss (son). Three projects are being realised in cooperation with Johann Strauss 2025 Vienna, and so the orchestra will open the anniversary year with Petr Popelka on 1 January 2025 at zero o'clock with *An der schönen blauen Donau* at the Wiener Konzerthaus. The programme also includes a concert performance of his operetta *Carnival in Rome* and the anniversary concert on 25 October 2025 under Manfred Honeck.

New formats in the city

In addition to concert and opera performances, the Wiener Symphoniker will once again be performing at special venues with special formats this season. In addition to the *Prater Picnic* at the end of the school year, the *Vienna Advent* in St. Stephen's Cathedral is also back on the programme, and there will once again be a cage concert and school projects. The *Beisl concerts* will move to the Carmelite neighbourhood in 2025 and the *Im Klang* and *Fridays@7* formats also promise very special concert experiences. The film music concert *Cinema:Sound* brings James Newton Howard to the Musikverein - with his music for the films *Pretty Woman*, *Fantastic Beasts*, *The Hunger Games* and *King Kong*.

Open Symphony

With more than 30 concerts, 60 workshops, 10 open dress rehearsals and numerous other programmes, the Wiener Symphoniker offer thousands of children, schoolchildren, families and adults their first, in-depth or even unexpected contact with classical music every year. With the MusikTheater an der Wien, a family opera is once again on the programme with *The Little Prince*. Chloé Dufresne conducts the family concert *Love is in the Air* and Katharina Wincor



conducts Saint-Saëns *Carnival of the Animals* with dAnia and Sophie Druml at the piano. The cage concerts in Vienna's football and play cages, which are organised in collaboration with the ARGE Henriette cultural association, will also continue in the 2024-25 season. For the fourth time, the WSY Talent Award will be presented, which, in cooperation with the "prima la musica" youth music competition, gives outstanding young musicians the opportunity to rehearse solo works with the Wiener Symphoniker and perform them at the ORF Radio Kulturhaus together with conductor Christoph Koncz.

Abonnements & Service

This year, the Wiener Symphoniker are once again offering their own cycles in cooperation with the Wiener Konzerthausgesellschaft. In addition to the large *Wiener Symphoniker cycle*, the successful *matinees* on Sundays, *Fridays@7* with a relaxed finale in the foyer as well as the festive *concerts* and the successful music education series *Vorhören!* will continue. This year, the six-part chamber music series will take place in the new Wien Museum.

All subscriptions can be booked via the Ticket and Service Centre of the Wiener Konzerthaus on 01/242002 and on the website wienersymphoniker.at, where further details on updates and programmes can also be found.

Season brochure

The season brochure can be found online at wienersymphoniker.at/saisonbroschuere and can be ordered at presse@wienersymphoniker.at.

Seasonal wine

The Wiener Symphoniker are presenting an anniversary cuvée (Cuvée Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Zweigelt) as a seasonal wine in cooperation with the Wieninger winery. The anniversary wine will be available from September 2024 in the orchestra's online shop: shop.wienersymphoniker.at



NUMBERS & FACTS

2024-25 season of the Wiener Symphoniker

WHO?

- 128 Orchestra musicians
- 30 Conductors
- 69 Soloists

WHAT?

- 187 concerts in the 2024–25 season, of which...
 - ...34 concerts with chief conductor Petr Popelka
 - ...15 concerts with Principal Guest Conductor Marie Jacquot
 - ... 11 Anniversary concerts
 - ... 37 performances at the Bregenzer Festspiele
 - ... 6 chamber concerts at the Wien Museum
 - ... 31 concerts especially for children, young people, families and schoolchildren
- Around 60 participatory workshops at schools
- 1 world premiere and 4 Austrian premieres

WHERE?

- 121 concerts in Vienna at 9 venues, including 43 concerts at the Wiener Konzerthaus, 38 concerts at the Musikverein Wien and 27 opera performances at the MusikTheater an der Wien
- 29 guest performances in 23 cities and 7 countries (China, Germany, Italy, Austria, Slovakia, Spain, Czech Republic)

HOW MUCH?

- ...Annual budget of around € 26.5 million (2024)
- ... 77% from city and federal subsidies
- ... 21,5% operational income
- ... Remainder from other income



WIENER SYMPHONIKER

Chief Conductor: Petr Popelka
Principal guest conductor: Marie Jacquot
Honorary conductors: Georges Prêtre † Wolfgang Sawallisch †

Orchestra of a new world

With a history steeped in tradition, the courage to take its own stance and an enduring joy of discovery, the Wiener Symphoniker are the beating heart of the classical metropolis of Vienna. For more than 120 years, the orchestra has been shaping and moulding the unique sound culture of its home city, managing to combine the past, present and future like no other. In 2025, the Wiener Symphoniker will celebrate their 125th anniversary.

It is no coincidence that the orchestra was born in 1900: the fresh wind of Viennese modernism blew around this new orchestra, which faced the challenges of life in the 20th century with confidence and vision. This initially included a confident approach to its own past - the Wiener Symphoniker were the first orchestra in the Austrian capital to present all of Beethoven's symphonies in one cycle. However, the pioneering spirit of the Wiener Symphoniker is also evident in the fact that they quickly became one of the most important premiere orchestras in Europe. Milestones in music history, such as Anton Bruckner's 9th Symphony, Arnold Schönberg's *Gurre-Lieder*, Maurice Ravel's *Concerto for the Left Hand* and Franz Schmidt's *The Book with Seven Seals*, were performed by the symphony orchestra for the first time: Concerts that paved the way for completely new worlds of sound and made them accessible to the masses. To this day, the Wiener Symphoniker attach great importance to collaborations with contemporary composers such as Olga Neuwirth, Wolfgang Rihm, HK Gruber, Thomas Larcher, Johannes Maria Staud, Michael Jarrell, Guillaume Connesson, Dieter Ammann and Jörg Widmann, and are one of the most important driving forces behind contemporary music, both in Vienna and internationally. Among the chief conductors of the past 120 years - including Wilhelm Furtwängler, Hans Swarowsky, Herbert von Karajan, Wolfgang Sawallisch and Georges Prêtre - there are also numerous visionaries who have had a lasting influence on the future of the global classical music scene.

For all their desire for progress, the Wiener Symphoniker have always been characterised by their extraordinary down-to-earth attitude and closeness to the audience. With the so-called "volksthümlichen Konzerten" in Vienna's Volksgarten and the legendary Workers' Symphony Concerts, they ensured from the very beginning that classical music was no longer withheld from a narrow elite. Today, the orchestra performs at unusual venues in all of Vienna's neighbourhoods as part of the Grätzl Concerts, meets the Viennese at the Beisl Concerts in their traditional pubs and conquers new venues in the city. In the open air, in the centre of the vibrant city and with low-threshold access - this is how the Wiener Symphoniker present themselves at the Prater Picnic.



On the last day of school before the summer holidays, the orchestra delights all Viennese with a large open-air concert against the backdrop of the Giant Ferris Wheel. During Advent, the Wiener Symphoniker play pre-Christmas music from all over the world in the Christian heart of the city, St Stephen's Cathedral. As Vienna's official cultural ambassadors, the Wiener Symphoniker also like to showcase the unmistakable sound of their homeland outside their own city walls, and so they have long been welcome guests in major international concert halls. As Orchestra in Residence at the Bregenz Festival, the Wiener Symphoniker have also been delighting a colourful mix of opera audiences for many decades.



PETR POPELKA

Chief Conductor

Petr Popelka delights audiences with his captivating and authentic style. As of the 24-25 season, he is Chief Conductor of the Wiener Symphoniker, as well as Chief Conductor and Artistic Director of the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Since his debut with the Wiener Symphoniker in 2021 and an enthusiastically received performance of Mahler's 1st Symphony in 2022, the orchestra and Popelka have maintained a close relationship. "For me, the Wiener Symphoniker is the musical embodiment of Vienna," says Popelka. "An orchestra that captures the spirit of the city, an ensemble with a great tradition and an orchestra that has always embodied a modern pioneering spirit - both in terms of the repertoire and the tasks of an orchestra within society."

To mark the start of his tenure in Vienna, Popelka will conduct Arnold Schönberg's monumental *Gurre-Lieder* on the composer's 150th birthday at the Vienna Musikverein as well as a concert of Béla Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra* at the Vienna Konzerthaus. This will be followed later in the season by joint tours in Europe and Asia as well as various appearances at the Vienna Konzerthaus and Musikverein.

Other highlights of the season include his debuts with the Tonhalleorchester Zürich, the Orchestre de Paris and the NHK Symphony Orchestra as well as his return to orchestras such as the Staatskapelle Berlin, the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, the Gewandhausorchester, the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra (Velvet Revolution TV concert), the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, the Danish National Symphony and the symphony orchestras of the hr, SWR and WDR.

Petr Popelka is also a celebrated opera conductor and will conclude his three-season concert performance of Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* with the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra with the third act before conducting the entire work at the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Previous debuts have taken him to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra sinfonica nazionale della RAI, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg and Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin, among others. He has also made guest appearances at the Zurich Opera House (Mozart's *Don Giovanni*), the Semperoper Dresden (Shostakovich's *Nose*), the Theater an der Wien (Weinberger's *Schwanda*) and the Oslo Opera (Strauss' *Elektra*).

In the 2019/2020 season, Petr Popelka began his conducting career as the first Conductor Fellow of the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, having been a member of the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden from 2010 to 2019 as deputy principal double bass. Shortly afterwards, he became Principal Conductor of the Norwegian Radio Orchestra in Oslo (2020-2023). He received his musical training in his home town of Prague and in Freiburg. In addition to conducting, Petr Popelka is also active as a composer.



MARIE JACQUOT

Principal Guest Conductor of the Wiener Symphoniker

Marie Jacquot has played her way to the forefront of young conductors through first-class debuts with top-class orchestras, her consistent musical work and her joy of discovery in the entire repertoire. Since the 23-24 season, she has been Principal Guest Conductor of the Wiener Symphoniker, with whom she can be heard at the Wiener Konzerthaus, the Vienna Musikverein and on tour. From 24-25 she will be Principal Conductor of the Royal Danish Theatre Copenhagen and from 26-27 she will be Principal Conductor of the WDR Symphony Orchestra.

In autumn 2023, Marie Jacquot was a guest at the Copenhagen Opera for a new production of "Eugene Onegin" and conducted concerts with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, among others. Her debuts this season include a world premiere by Marc-André Dalbavie at the German State Opera in Berlin and concerts with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo.

Successful debuts and re-invitations in recent seasons include the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig, the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, the symphony orchestras of BR Munich, WDR Cologne, hr Frankfurt and mdr Leipzig as well as the DSO Berlin, the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic, the Malmö SO and the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne.

She has also appeared at prominent opera houses in a broad repertoire, including the Semperoper Dresden, the Staatsoper Stuttgart, the Deutsche Oper, the Komische Oper Berlin, the Opéra National du Rhin Strasbourg, the Flemish Opera Antwerp/Ghent and the Opéra National de Lorraine in Nancy.

Between 2016 and 2019, Marie Jacquot was First Kapellmeister and Deputy GMD in Würzburg. From 2019, she was First Kapellmeister at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf / Duisburg for three years, where she conducted new productions of "La Clemenza di Tito", "Roméo et Juliette" and "The Nutcracker" as well as concerts by the Düsseldorfer Symphoniker and the Duisburger Philharmoniker. After studying trombone in Paris, Marie Jacquot studied conducting in Vienna and Weimar, attended various masterclasses and was a scholarship holder of the Conductors' Forum of the German Music Council.

In 2016, she was Kirill Petrenko's assistant at the Bavarian State Opera for the world premiere of Miroslav Srnka's "South Pole" and subsequently conducted two of her own productions at the Munich Opera Festival. Her awards include the "Ernst Schuch Prize" in 2019 and a nomination as "Newcomer of the year" at the International Opera Awards. In February 2024, she won the "Révélation/Chef d'orchestre" category at the 31st "Victoires de la Musique Classique".



GUEST CONDUCTORS 2024–25

The anniversary season 24-25 is not only the inaugural season of the new chief conductor Petr Popelka, but also offers a reunion with former chief conductors and long-standing artistic companions of the orchestra. Philippe Jordan, Fabio Luisi, Lahav Shani, Alain Altinoglu and Manfred Honeck, among others, will return to the podium of the Wiener Symphoniker. Conductors such as Nathalie Stutzmann, Katharina Wincor and Chloé Dufresne will be guests for the first time.

Selected guest conductors 2024-25:

ALAIN ALTINOGLU	GÁBOR KÁLI
DAVID BATES*	CHRISTOPH KONCZ*
ANDREY BOREYKO	FRANCESCO LANZILLOTTA*
ELIM CHAN	VÁCLAV LUKS*
STÉPHANE DENÈVE	FABIO LUISI
CHLOÉ DUFRESNE*	CRISTIAN MĂCELARU
CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH	INGO METZMACHER
ÁDÁM FISCHER	EVA OLLIKAINEN
AIVIS GRETERS*	ELENA SCHWARZ*
PATRICK HAHN	LAHAV SHANI
MANFRED HONECK	NATHALIE STUTZMANN*
JAMES NEWTON HOWARD*	ROBIN TICCIATI
PHILIPPE JORDAN	LORENZO VIOTTI
VLADIMIR JUROWSKI	KATHARINA WINCOR*

* Debut

SOLOISTS 2024–25

Great soloists meet the Wiener Symphoniker in the 24-25 season. Among them are once again big names and rising stars of the international music world. Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Martha Argerich, Augustin Hadelich and Víkingur Ólafsson will be performing alongside María Dueñas, Leonidas Kavakos and Asmik Grigorian.

Selected Soloists 2024–25:

PIERRE-LAURENT AIMARD, Klavier	MIKA KARES, Bass
MARTHA ARGERICH, Klavier	KATERYNA KASPER, Sopran
JAN BARTOŠ, Klavier	LEONIDAS KAVAKOS, Violine
TANJA ARIANE BAUMGARTNER, Alt	DAVID KERBER, Tenor
NOA BEINART, Alt	VADYM KHOLODENKO, Klavier
VERA-LOTTE BOECKER, Sopran	SEBASTIAN KOHLHEPP, Tenor
FLORIAN BOESCH, Bassbariton	BRUCE LIU, Klavier
BENJAMIN BRUNS, Tenor	CHRISTOPHER MALTMAN, Bariton
RUDOLF BUCHBINDER, Klavier	ALEXANDER MELNIKOV, Klavier
DAVID BUTT PHILIP, Tenor	EDGAR MOREAU, Violoncello
RENAUD CAPUÇON, Violine	REGULA MÜHLEMANN, Sopran
SEONG-JIN CHO, Klavier	TAREQ NAZMI, Bass
SASHA COOKE, Mezzosopran	CAMILLA NYLUND, Sopran
ANGELA DENOKE, Sprecherin	VÍKINGUR ÓLAFSSON, Klavier
MARÍA DUEÑAS, Violine	JOHANNI VAN OOSTRUM, Sopran
ADRIAN ERÖD, Bass	HERA HYESANG PARK, Sopran
DANIELA FALLY, Sopran	EWA PŁONKA, Sopran
ISABELLE FAUST, Violine	ANNA LUCIA RICHTER, Mezzosopran
JULIA FISCHER, Violine	PAUL SCHWEINESTER, Tenor
MAO FUJITA, Klavier	GERHARD SIEGEL, Tenor
SOL GABETTA, Violoncello	KIAN SOLTANI, Violoncello
CHRISTINA GANSCH, Sopran	ANDREW STAPLES, Tenor
KIRILL GERSTEIN, Klavier	KREŠIMIR STRAŽANAC, Bassbariton
ASMIK GRIGORIAN Sopran	TAMESTIT, ANTOINE, Viola
EKATERINA GUBANOVA, Mezzosopran	ELISABETH TEIGE, Sopran
NIKOLAUS HABJAN, Sprecher	ANNA VINNITSKAYA, Klavier
AUGUSTIN HADELICH, Violine	DEREK WELTON, Bassbariton
	RACHAEL WILSON, Mezzosopran

SUBSCRIPTIONS & SERVICE

Subscriptions at Wiener Konzerthaus

WIENER SYMPHONIKER

Chief conductor Petr Popelka, former chief conductor Philippe Jordan, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, two great Mahler symphonies and more in the 10-subscription programme at the Wiener Konzerthaus.

MATINEES

Selected concert experiences on Sunday, presented by Barbara Rett: including Ingo Metzmacher, Lahav Shani and Marie Jacquot.

FESTIVE-CONCERTS

Four festive concerts with a very special programme: Petr Popelka's inaugural concert as the orchestra's new chief conductor, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand* and Sol Gabetta with Camille Saint-Saëns' *Cello Concerto*.

FRIDAYS@7

The perfect start to the weekend: Concentrated concerts and a relaxed finale in the foyer, including Petr Popelka, Rudolf Buchbinder, Sol Gabetta, Lorenzo Viotti and more.

VORHÖREN!

As part of the "Vorhören!" series, children and young people will spend four Sunday mornings during the first part of the concert exploring the compositions on the programme for the second part. Meanwhile, their accompanying adults can enjoy the full-length concert.

Chamber Music-Subscription

CHAMBER MUSIC BY THE WIENER SYMPHONIKER

With the Wien Museum, the city's memory has just been reopened. Now six different ensembles are interrogating history for perspectives for the present and the future in the Wiener Symphoniker's chamber music series. Sensual history lessons to accompany the exhibitions, with guided tours included in the concert!

Details and further information on subscriptions at the Wiener Konzerthaus, the Musikverein Wien and the Wien Museum can be found at wienersymphoniker.at



PRESS PHOTOS

All photos are available for download at www.wienersymphoniker.at/presse.

Wiener Symphoniker

Location: Leopold Museum



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Chief Conductor Petr Popelka



© Susanna Hassler-Smith



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Principal Guest Conductor Marie Jacquot



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