

Chamber Orchestra of Europe (COE)



„The finest orchestra in the world.“ - BBC2 Television

Acknowledged as “the finest chamber orchestra in the world” (BBC 2 Television), the Chamber Orchestra of Europe was founded in 1981 by a group of young musicians graduating from the European Community Youth Orchestra. It was their ambition to continue working together at the highest possible professional level. Of that original group, thirteen remain in the current core membership of around sixty. The members of the COE, selected by the orchestra itself, pursue parallel careers as international soloists, leaders and principals of nationally-based orchestras, as members of eminent chamber groups, tutors and professors of music. It is their wealth of cultural backgrounds and shared love of music-making, which remains at the heart of their inspired performances.

The COE performs at some of the most prominent cultural venues in Europe, including the Philharmonie de Paris, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus, the Cologne Philharmonie and the Alte Oper in Frankfurt. Together with other major European concert halls, these venues provide a regular touring base for the orchestra. The COE has a close connection with the Lucerne Festival, the Styriarte in Graz and with many of the world’s most prestigious musical events, such as the BBC Proms in London, the Edinburgh International Festival and the Mostly Mozart Festival in New York. In partnership with the Kronberg Academy, the COE will become the first-ever orchestra-in-residence at the future Casals Forum in Kronberg from 2021.

Over the years, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe has developed especially close relationships not only with the late Claudio Abbado and Nikolaus Harnoncourt, but also Bernhard Haitink, Vladimir Jurowski, Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Sir Andrés Schiff, who are Honorary Members.

The season 2018/19 sees the COE perform with some of the world's renowned conductors and soloists including Robin Ticciati, Sir Antonio Pappano, Leonidas Kavakos, Janine Jansen, Nikolaj Szeps-Znaider and Pierre-Laurent Aimard.

In only thirty-five years, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe recorded over 250 works with all the major recording companies. It won numerous international prizes for its recordings including three Gramophone Record of the Year Awards for Rossini's opera *Viaggio à Reims*, Schubert's symphonies conducted by Claudio Abbado and Beethoven's symphonies conducted by Nikolaus Harnoncourt. It also won two Grammys and the MIDEM Classical Download Award. In addition to that, the COE was the first orchestra to create its own label, COE Records, in association with Sanctuary Records, a division of Universal Music.

Recent CDs released by the orchestra include Mozart's Clarinet Concerto and Quintet with the COE's principal clarinet Romain Guyot for the label Mirare, as well as *Così Fan Tutte* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Rolando Villazon, Mojca Erdmann, Miah Pets-Son, Angela Brower, Adam Plachetka, Alessandro Corbelli, recorded for Deutsche Grammophon and released in 2013.

In March 2014, the COE released two further CDs: all of the Schumann symphonies with Yannick Nézet-Séguin for Deutsche Grammophon and works by Bach and Vasks with Renaud Capuçon for EMI. COE's recording of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* was released in July 2015 with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording.

In 2016, Deutsche Grammophon released COE's recording of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, that was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording in 2017. Also in 2016, ECM Records released the recording of Schumann's and Mendelssohn's Violin Concertos with Carolin Widmann, recorded at the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus. Another CD project released by Deutsche Grammophon includes all of the Mendelssohn symphonies, recorded at the Paris Philharmonie with Yannick Nézet-Séguin in February 2016.

Finally, in 2018 Deutsche Grammophon released COE's recording *Visions of Prokofiev* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Lisa Batiashvili, that won the Opus Klassik Award for the Best Concert Recording of the Year, as well as Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 20 K 466 / Sonatas K 281 & K 332* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Seong Jin-Cho.

In recent years, the COE released a number of DVDs and developed a close association with the producing companies Idéale Audience and Styriarte/ORF. Idéale Audience produced two DVDs of concerts performed at the Cité de la musique in Paris, namely Ravel's Piano Concerto in G, R. Strauss' *Metamorphosen* and *Bourgeois' Gentilhomme Suite* conducted by Vladimir Jurowski with Héléne Grimaud, Sibelius' *Rakastava, Valse Triste* and Violin Concerto, as well as Schumann's Symphony No. 1 conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy with Ukrainian violinist Valeriy Sokolov.

Further DVD releases with Idéale Audience include Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with John Nelson and the Gulbenkian Choir, filmed at Lisbon's Gulbenkian Foundation in 2010. The Styriarte, in association with the ORF (Austria's Radio and Television network), released three DVDs of the COE's performances at the Styriarte Festival, Beethoven's Mass in C and Symphony No. 5 (2007), Smetana's *Má Vlast* (2010) and *The Bartered Bride* (2011).

All recordings can be purchased on Amazon or downloaded from iTunes and Spotify.

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To enable young people and new audiences to experience first hand high quality live orchestral and chamber music, the COE has an active education and outreach programme designed for school, conservatoire and concert halls. The COE Academy was created in 2009 and annually awards full scholarships to exceptionally talented postgraduate students, as well as young professionals, to study with the COE's principal players, when the orchestra is on tour.

The COE is a private orchestra which receives invaluable financial support from a number of friends, including the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, without which it could not survive. The Leader Chair is supported by Dasha Shenkman, the Principal Cello Chair by an anonymous donor, the Principal Bass Chair by Sir Siegmund Warburg's Voluntary Settlement, the Principal Oboe Chair and the Principal Flute Chair by the Rupert Hughes Will Trust in memory of the late Rupert Hughes, and the Principal Trumpet Chair by The Underwood Trust. Finally, the orchestra receives financial support from the 35th Anniversary Friends and the American Friends.

<http://www.coeurope.org/>

<http://andreasrichter.berlin/chamber-orchestra-of-europe/?lang=en/>

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