

Budapest Festival Orchestra

IVÁN FISCHER made his dream come true when he founded the Budapest Festival Orchestra in 1983 together with Zoltán Kocsis. From the very beginning, the ambition of the ensemble has been to share music of the highest quality and to serve the community in the most diverse ways.

THE BFO is rated among the top orchestras in the world. The orchestra regularly performs at the most important concert venues of the international music scene, including Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center in New York, the Musikverein in Vienna and the Royal Albert Hall and Barbican Centre in London. They have repeatedly been invited to perform at international festivals, such as the Mostly Mozart Festival, the Salzburg Festival and the Edinburgh International Festival.

The BFO has won two Gramophone Awards. It was nominated for a Grammy in 2013 for its recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 1 and won the Diapason d'Or and the Italian Toblacher Komponierhäuschen prize for its recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 5 in 2014. The ensemble also received the Association of Music Critics of Argentina's Award for the category "Best Foreign Symphony Orchestra" in 2016.

THE BFO'S INNOVATIVE CONCERTS, such as the Autism-friendly Cocoa Concerts, the Surprise Concerts and the musical marathons, are well known around the world. The Midnight Music Concerts are especially attractive for young adults, while the Dancing on the Square project focuses on integrating disadvantaged children. The orchestra also promotes free Community Weeks and co-produces the Bridging Europe Festival with Műpa Budapest.

IVÁN FISCHER conducts and directs the Budapest Festival Orchestra's opera productions. These have been, among others, invited to the Mostly Mozart Festival, the Edinburgh International Festival and the Abu Dhabi Festival. Their production The Marriage of Figaro was furthermore ranked first on the New York Magazine list of "Best Events in Classical Music" in 2013. The Vicenza Opera Festival, founded by Iván Fischer, was inaugurated in the autumn of 2018.