

Freiburger Barockorchester

The Freiburg Barockorchester (FBO) is one of today's leading ensembles of historically informed performance practice. For more than 30 years, it has shaped international musical life and set musical standards with its concerts and recordings.

The FBO was founded in 1987 by former students at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, mainly from the violin class of Rainer Kussmaul, later concertmaster of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. The ensemble soon advanced to become one of the most sought-after orchestras with period instruments and achieved international renown. The FBO regularly performs in the most important international concert halls, including the Berlin Philharmonie, Wigmore Hall London, Lincoln Center in New York, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Philharmonie de Paris. Concert tours take the ensemble to all continents, from South America to Australia. At the same time, the FBO maintains its own subscription series in Freiburg, Stuttgart and Berlin and is a guest at major music festivals such as the Salzburg Festival, the Tanglewood Festival in the USA and the Tage Alter Musik Innsbruck.

The orchestra's core repertoire is Baroque and Classical music, but it also frequently performs Romantic music, especially works by Mendelssohn and Schumann. In the spirit of historically informed performance practice, the FBO usually performs without a conductor, but for selected projects, e.g. opera performances or large-scale orchestral works, the ensemble works with renowned conductors such as Pablo Heras-Casado, Sir Simon Rattle or Teodor Currentzis. The FBO has a particularly close musical friendship with René Jacobs, with whom the ensemble devotes itself in particular to the operas of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart or oratorios from the Baroque and Classical periods.

The artistic directors of the FBO are Gottfried von der Goltz (violin) and Kristian Bezuidenhout (fortepiano), who took over this position from Petra Müllejans in 2017. Both artists also appear as soloists. Furthermore, the ensemble works with renowned instrumentalists and vocal soloists, including Isabelle Faust, Philippe Jaroussky, Christian Gerhaher, Alexander Melnikov, Andreas Staier, Jean-Guihen Queyras and many others.

The orchestra's extraordinary musical diversity is documented on numerous recordings, which have been decorated with a multitude of prizes and awards, including several ECHO Klassik and Grammophone awards, as well as Grammy nominations.

The 2021/22 season will take the FBO on an extensive tour of Germany and the Netherlands with Bach's Christmas Oratorio together with the Nederlands Kamerkoor under the direction of Peter Dijkstra. The FBO also gives guest performances at the Haydneum Festival Budapest, as well as at the Auditorio Nacional in Madrid and the Philharmonie Paris. Under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle, the orchestra performs Rameau's opera *Hippolyte et Aricie* at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin.