



DRESDEN  
FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA

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A masterful combination of passionate, joyful music-making and knowledgeable interpretations – that is the Dresden Festival Orchestra. Founded in 2012 by the Dresden Music Festival, the ensemble for historically informed performance practice dedicates itself to the fascinating search for a work's original sound – with a repertoire that ranges from the baroque to the late romantic era, its musicians have presented the results of their work in lively, gripping performances.

The orchestra's unique sound also results from its international cast, with members who are at home in such renowned early music ensemble as the Academy of Ancient Music, the Orchestra of the 18th Century, the Balthasar Neumann Ensemble, the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, the Concentus Musicus Wien, Il Giardino Armonico, Le Cercle de l'Harmonie, Concerto Köln, the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin or the English Baroque Soloists. These varied insights and experiences form the basis of the orchestra's fresh and authentic approach. Playing on original instruments of the time a given work was first performed and in keeping with historical knowledge, they breathe new life into yesterday's sound.

Already at its celebrated premiere, the ensemble thrilled both audiences and critics. In recognition of this fact, the Dresden Festival Orchestra was nominated for the »International Opera Award« in 2015, offering a brilliant rediscovery of Richard Strauss' opera »Feuersnot« (a coproduction with the Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden).

Since 2012, Ivor Bolton has been chief conductor of the Dresden Festival Orchestra. Furthermore, the ensemble has worked with such conductors as Hans-Christoph Rademann, Johannes Klumpp, Josep Caballé Domenech and Constantinos Carydis. It has shared the stage with high-carat soloists including Giuliano Carmignola, Isabelle Faust, Bejun Mehta, Waltraud Meier, Valer Sabadus, Nicola Benedetti, Thomas Zehetmair, Simone Kermes and René Pape. In addition to its acclaimed performances during the Festival, guest appearances have taken the orchestra to Berlin's Philharmonie, Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie and to the Bogotá Music Festival, all as ambassadors of the Dresden Music Festival. In October 2016, the first recording was released with Schumann's second symphony and his cello concerto featuring Jan Vogler as soloist.

Highlights of the 2019-20 season include performances at the Dresden Music Festival under the baton of Ivor Bolton and René Jacobs (Brahms' »Ein deutsches Requiem«) as well as a concert at the Philharmonie in Essen with Martin Helmchen on historical piano under the direction of Ivor Bolton.