

From Bach to Hollywood

It was a sensation when in February of 1993 not only Michael Jackson and the Berlin Philharmonic conducted by Leonard Bernstein won an award at the Grammy's, but also, seemingly out of the blue, did the Nuremberg Symphony. They were presented the award in the category "Best Pop Instrumental Performance" for the performance of the main title music for the TV series "Beauty and the Beast".

In those days, the Nuremberg Symphony's name was prevalent throughout the international media, featured in magazines and news broadcasts worldwide. Not known to the general public was the then 40-year-old "Hollywood Connection". The orchestra started recording soundtracks for movies in the early 1950's, for example the film scores for "Quo Vadis" in 1953 and "Ben Hur" in 1959.

Despite frequent studio sessions for the Bavarian radio broadcasting system and numerous CD labels, the Nuremberg Symphony's recording activities are only a fraction of its work. Primarily, the Nuremberg Symphony is a concert orchestra, performing some 100 concerts every season, with a clear focus on the classical and romantic repertoire.

The orchestra's first concert, under the name of "Fränkisches Landesorchester", took place on July 28, 1945, shortly after the end of the second World War. Haydn's "Creation" was performed in the ruins of St. Sebald Church. However, the orchestra was not officially established until June 1, 1946, and not until the inauguration of the Meistersinger Concert Hall in 1963 did its new name "Nuremberg Symphony" take hold.

Since September 2009 the young English conductor Alexander Shelley was appointed Chief Conductor. Born in London, Shelley is considered a rising star in the international conducting circuit and was described in the English press as "the most exciting and gifted young conductor of his generation". Also in Nuremberg he is celebrated by both the media and the audience. Though his international engagements are continuously increasing he extended his contract ahead of time until summer 2017.



N Ü R N B E R G E R
S Y M P H O N I K E R

The orchestra brings the joy of classical music to over 180,000 listeners every year. With its two esteemed and varied subscription series at the Meistersingerhalle, featuring world class artists such as Cecilia Bartoli, José Carreras, Philippe Entremont and Mischa Maisky, the Nuremberg Symphony offers a vast variety of classical music. The popular Serenade Court concerts take place during the summer season (June – August), and the Classic Open Air in Nuremberg’s city park has become the biggest open air concert of its kind in Europe, attracting some 60,000 enthusiastic visitors every year.

In addition, the orchestra plays an active role in educating children, the audience of the future, by performing a series of concerts featuring a combination of classical music and stunning pictures as visual stimulation. The Nuremberg Symphony also has developed a smooth performance partnership with a large number of oratorio choirs in the region, and acts as festival orchestra at the Heidenheim Opera Festival.

Besides its regular performances in the European cultural centres – Prague, Milan and the Musikverein Vienna – future plans see the Nuremberg Symphony intensifying their touring with appearances in countries further afield. In the autumn of 2009 the orchestra returned from the first visit to Japan, where they played concerts in seven cities, all of which were enthusiastically received.

After one year of construction, the grand inauguration of the Music Hall took place in March 2008 – the home of the Nuremberg Symphony they are very proud of. It functions now as both the orchestra’s rehearsal and concert hall, and is a new space open to the public for other events and performances. With beginning of the season 2011/12 it is the venue of the new concert series “Symphoniker PLUS” which combines classical music with different genres like literature, film and jazz.

For their audiences worldwide the Nuremberg Symphony continues to stand for quality and stylistic flexibility, from Bach to Hollywood.

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