



# Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn

The Württemberg Chamber Orchestra of Heilbronn, one of the most popular chamber orchestras in the world, has built up a reputation for itself as an outstanding ensemble since it was founded in 1960 by Prof Jörg Faerber. In 2010, the orchestra will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with some extraordinary concert projects (including tours of Canada and Korea and a Beethoven Festival) in the company of soloists such as Elisabeth Leonskaja, Ivo Pogorelich, Mischa Maisky, Pieter Wispelwey and Juan Diego Flórez as well as the Petersen String Quartet.

Alongside its versatility, audiences are spellbound by the WKO's dynamics and virtuosity combined with its deep sense of musicality and emotionality. Critics have praised the WKO for its "unparalleled musical culture" (*Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*) and "breathtaking brilliance" (*Die Welt*), while the Washington Post commended its precision, sophistication and homogeneous sound. Apart from classical compositions, the orchestra's repertoire above all comprises familiar and less familiar works from the Romantic period, the early modern age and the avant-garde. Its principal conductor is Ruben Gazarian, who joined in time for the 2002/03 season.

In addition to its subscription concerts in Heilbronn, every year the WKO gives a large number of guest performances in Germany and abroad (Europe, Japan and North America), including at music festivals such as the Ludwigsburg International Festival, the Rheingau Music Festival, Dias da Musica in Lisbon and the Storioni Festival in Eindhoven. In 2008, the orchestra celebrated a sensational debut at the La Folle Journée festival, which took the WKO to Nantes, Bilbao and Tokyo.

Over a period of five decades, the WKO has not only worked together with many well-known musicians but also promoted junior talents. Among the soloists who have frequently performed with the orchestra are Martha Argerich, Maurice André, Alfred Brendel, Rudolf Buchbinder, Gautier Capuçon, Giora Feidman, Julia Fischer, Justus Frantz, James Galway, Evelyn Glennie, Hilary Hahn, Heinz Holliger, Sharon Kam, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Gidon Kremer, Katia & Marielle Labèque, Mischa Maisky, Sabine Meyer, Wolfgang Meyer, Viktoria Mullova, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Sergei Nakariakov, Christiane Oelze, Thomas Quasthoff, Daniel Müller-Schott and Frank Peter as well as Tabea Zimmermann.

Recent CDs featuring principal conductor Ruben Gazarian and the WKO include a recording of compositions by Joseph and Michael Haydn released in September 2006 by Dabringhaus (and which was crowned the 2006 Polish Hi-fi Recording of the Year), a 2007 recording of works by Tchaikovsky on the Bayer Records label, and a CD of music by Dmitri Shostakovich which came out in 2008.

## **2009/2010 season**

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