

„The Württemberger are among the top ensembles in Europe, and they play with true virtuosity.“ Frankfurter Neue Presse, March 2018

Driven by the passion and inspiration of its musicians\*, the name Württembergisches Kammerorchester Heilbronn (WKO) stands for an energetic music-making style and a distinct individuality of orchestral sound. These are also the guarantees for the international success story of the orchestra.

The WKO has a significant influence on the musical life of its home region. Its own subscription series in Heilbronn and Ulm as well as regular music theatre productions with the Heilbronn Theatre bear witness to this. In addition to innovative concert formats, the orchestra presents an imaginative music education programme for all ages and its own chamber music series designed by the musicians. Open-air concerts are among the special crowd pullers – the performances at the Heilbronn Federal Horticultural Show 2019 are still fresh in the memory.

The WKO is a perfect example of a chamber orchestra playing at the highest level. This includes the ability to create orchestral sound splendour and the chamber music virtues of interacting and mutual listening. The latter also enables performances in which the orchestra is led either by soloists or from the concert master’s music desk.

As the musical ambassador of Heilbronn, the WKO is a welcome guest at important international stages and festivals such as the Royal Albert Hall in London, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Cologne Philharmonic, the Tivoli Copenhagen, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Rheingau Music Festival or the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival. Regular touring activities round off the WKO’s spectrum of activities. South Korea and a guest performance in Turkey are planned for the current season.

The WKO is the life’s work of the conductor Jörg Faerber. He founded the ensemble in 1960 and led it to international renown. Jörg Faerber and his visionary work were followed in 2002 by the Armenian conductor Ruben Gazarian. An important feature of his tenure is the consistent expansion of the repertoire into the 21st century. Since the 2018/19 season, the young American conductor Case Scaglione has held the position of Chief Conductor of the WKO.