**Gürzenich-Orchestra Cologne**

The Gürzenich-Orchestra, firmly rooted in Cologne but open to the world, stands for groundbreaking interpretations, innovative programs and a wide range of offerings beyond the concert hall. It is one of Germany's leading orchestras in both concert and opera and has a tradition that has made music history like no other.

The orchestra was founded in 1827 by the Concert-Gesellschaft Köln, but its history can be traced back to medieval music-making in Cologne. It has been the orchestra of the city of Cologne since 1888 and delights more than 100,000 visitors in around 50 concerts per season in the Cologne Philharmonie. The orchestra also performs as the Cologne Opera Orchestra in around 160 performances each season.

Honorary conductors are Günter Wand (1946-1974) and Dmitrij Kitajenko. Andrés Orozco-Estrada is the designated Gürzenich-Kapellmeister and Generalmusikdirektor of the City of Cologne from 2025/26.

The orchestra looks back with pride on its great past: outstanding works of the Romantic repertoire by Johannes Brahms, Richard Strauss and Gustav Mahler were premiered with the Gürzenich-Orchestra. Today, this legacy is an incentive for the orchestra and its conductors to build bridges to the music of the present day: here, too, it maintains an impressive list of important world premieres.

Around 150 top international musicians put their heart and soul into making the Gürzenich-Orchestra what it is known for: an orchestra at the highest level and with unlimited expressive possibilities.

Full of joy and without fear of contact, the orchestra also leaves the classical concert hall to inspire people creatively in the midst of society. With performances in retirement homes and kindergartens, workshops, school concerts and offers such as the family ticket, we inspire a wide variety of target groups for music. Initiatives such as the Cologne Citizens' Orchestra and the Cologne Citizens' Choir invite people to actively participate with its musicians. Naturally the orchestra is also present in the digital space with its GO Plus live streams, podcasts and videos. Multiple award-winning CDs allow the world to experience its uniqueness as cultural ambassadors for the city of Cologne.

Since the 2023/24 season, the Gürzenich-Orchestra is one of the three resident orchestras of the Concertgebouw Brugge alongside the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest.

**Gürzenich -Kapellmeister**

Andrés Orozco-Estrada (ab 2025)

François-Xavier Roth (2015–2024)

Markus Stenz (2003–2014)

James Conlon (1990–2002)

Marek Janowski (1986–1990)

Yuri Ahronovitch (1975–1986)

Günter Wand (1946–1974)

Eugen Papst (1936–1944)

Hermann Abendroth (1915–1934)

Fritz Steinbach (1903–1914)

Franz Wüllner (1884–1902)

Ferdinand Hiller (1849–1884)

Heinrich Dorn (1843–1849)

Conradin Kreutzer (1840–1842)