

The ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra

The ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra is a top orchestra of world renown; it defines itself in the Vienna orchestral tradition. Marin Alsop took over as Chief Conductor in September 2019. The Vienna RSO is known for its exceptional, bold programming. By combining nineteenth-century repertoire with contemporary pieces and rarely performed works of other periods, the programming often places Romantic era classics in unexpected contexts.

The Vienna RSO regularly performs in two subscription series in Vienna, in the Musikverein and the Konzerthaus. In addition, it appears every year at major Austrian and international festivals. The orchestra has close ties to the Salzburg Festival, musikprotokoll im steirischen herbst and Wien Modern. Tours to Japan and China are a regular part of the Vienna RSO schedule as well. The orchestra has also played concerts in Thailand and Taiwan as well as the USA, South America and Germany at the Berlin, Cologne and Essen Philharmonic Halls and at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg among others. Since 2007, the Vienna RSO has successfully collaborated with the Theater an der Wien, thereby gaining an excellent reputation as an opera orchestra. Yet the Vienna RSO is also entirely at home in the film music genre. In 2012, the Vienna RSO recorded the soundtrack to the film *Die Vermessung der Welt (Measuring the World)* and in 2016 it was actively involved in two feature films: *Kater (Tomcat)* by Händl Klaus, winner of the Teddy Award at the Berlin International Film Festival, and *Die Geträumten* by Ruth Beckermann. Every year, the orchestra is conducted by composers who have won an Oscar for Best Achievement in Music written for Motion Pictures at the “Hollywood in Vienna” Gala. In 2019 the live recording was released as “The world of Hans Zimmer” by Sony Classical.

Most of the Vienna RSO performances are broadcast on the radio, particularly on the Österreich 1 station, but also internationally. Moreover, it has been possible to hear the Vienna RSO online for one week after the initial broadcast. Through its growing presence on television, as well as its collaboration with the FM4 young people's station, the Vienna RSO is constantly reaching out to new music lovers. Approximately 700 fans support the “Friends of the RSO” association.

Alain Altinoglu, Leonard Bernstein, Ernest Bour, Christoph von Dohnányi, Christoph Eschenbach, Michael Gielen, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Barbara Hannigan, Jakub Hrůša, Susanna Mälkki, Ingo Metzmacher, Marc Minkowski, Andris Nelsons, Kirill Petrenko, Wolfgang Sawallisch, Giuseppe Sinopoli, Hans Swarowsky, Lorenzo Viotti and Simone Young are among the guests who have stood on the podium of the Vienna RSO. Composers Luciano Berio, Friedrich Cerha, Peter Eötvös, HK Gruber, Hans Werner Henze, Ernst Krenek, Bruno Maderna and Krzysztof Penderecki have all conducted the orchestra. Internationally renowned soloists who make regular appearances with the Vienna RSO include Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, Christian Gerhaher, Martin Grubinger, Hilary Hahn, Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Gidon Kremer, Lang Lang, Sabine Meyer, Gabriela Montero, Anna Netrebko, Heinrich Schiff, Daniil Trifonov and Christian Tetzlaff.

The broad scope of the Vienna RSO's recording activities includes works in every genre, among them many first recordings that represent modern Austrian classicists and contemporary Austrian composers. This is how the *Neue Musik aus Österreich* series of CD recordings came about. Orchestral works by Friedrich Cerha, the recording of all nine symphonies by Egon Wellesz and first recordings of music by Erich Zeisl are all part of this series. In 2012 and 2016 two CD sets *my RSO I* and *my RSO II* with twenty-four and twelve CDs were released. In 2019 the Live-recording of Gottfried von Einem's *Der Prozess*, performed at the Salzburg Festival 2018, was awarded the “Diapason d'Or” and the “Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik”. In 2018 the Vienna RSO won the renowned ICMA in the category »Symphonic Music« for its 3-CD-set »Martinů: The Symphonies«. In addition Cornelius Meister received an Opus Klassik award as »Conductor of the Year«.

The Vienna RSO has also launched a broad-based educational program, comprising workshops for children and young people, as well as the *Inside my RSO*, *my RSO music lab*, and *Classical Temptation* concert series. Highly talented musicians have been admitted to the orchestra's own academy since 1997. The Vienna RSO plays regularly for the final concerts of the conducting classes at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna.

The Vienna RSO grew out of Austrian radio's main orchestra in 1969. Under the leadership of its chief conductors, Milan Horvat, Leif Segerstam, Lothar Zagrosek, Pinchas Steinberg, Dennis Russell Davies, Bertrand de Billy and Cornelius Meister, the orchestra has continuously expanded its repertoire, gaining growing international renown.