



Staatskapelle Weimar

The Staatskapelle Weimar, founded in 1491, is not only the oldest orchestra in Germany, but also one of the most illustrious in the world. Its history is closely associated to some of the world's best known musicians such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Johann Nepomuk Hummel, Franz Liszt and Richard Strauss. Under the aegis of Duchess Anna Amalia, the Weimar court orchestra became the premier musical institution of "Classical Weimar" after 1756 and part of the newly founded Hoftheater Weimar in 1791. During the 19th century, the orchestra continued to attract attention due to the achievements of Liszt and Strauss who improved its quality and reputation. The Hofkapelle Weimar was the first to perform numerous contemporary orchestral works such as Liszt's "Faust-Symphony", his symphonic poems including "Les Préludes" and Strauss's "Death and Transfiguration" as well as operas such as Wagner's "Lohengrin", Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" and Saint-Saëns' "Samson et Dalila".

The positive progress of the orchestra, renamed the "Weimarische Staatskapelle" in 1919, came to an abrupt end when the National Socialists seized power in 1933. Following the calamitous events of World War II, the conductor Hermann Abendroth re-established the Staatskapelle Weimar to its former grandeur and quality, making it one of Germany's leading orchestras. Since the 1980s, the conductors Peter Gülke, Oleg Caetani and Hans-Peter Frank as well as the present honorary conductor George Alexander Albrecht, who headed the orchestra from 1996 to 2002, have left a lasting mark. As General Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Deutsches Nationaltheater and Staatskapelle Weimar, Albrecht was succeeded by Jac van Steen (2002 to 2005), Carl St. Clair (2005 to 2009) and Stefan Solyom (2009 to 2016). In September 2016, the Ukrainian conductor Kirill Karabits took the reins of the only A-level orchestra in the state of Thuringia.

Both in its extensive concert activities and opera productions at the Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar, the Staatskapelle has worked to cultivate its great tradition in combination with innovative aspects. A wide range of CD recordings reflect its impressively diverse repertoire with works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Franz Liszt, Richard Wagner, Richard Strauss, Wilhelm Furtwängler, and several contemporary composers. World-class soloists and conductors perform regularly with the Staatskapelle Weimar which is nationally and internationally renowned as a first-class concert orchestra. In past years, it has guest performed in Japan, Israel, Spain, Italy, Great Britain, Switzerland and Austria, at famous festivals and numerous major concert halls in Germany.

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Staatskapelle Weimar - discography (selection of recordings)

Hansel and Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck (complete recording) mdg
conductor: Martin Hoff / soloists: Sayaka Shigeshima, Elisabeth Wimmer, Rebecca Teem
Uwe Schenker-Primus, Alexander Günther

Edward Elgar Berlin Classics
Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in B minor op. 61 (live recording)
Salut d'amour op. 12 / Offertoires op. 11
conductor / piano: **Stefan Solyom** / soloist: **Catherine Manoukian**

Max Bruch Naxos
Symphony No. 1 E-flat major op. 28 / Symphony No. 2 E minor op. 36
conductor: **Michael Halász**

Max Bruch cpo
The Song Of The Bell op. 45
conductor: **Jac van Steen** / soloists: **Eleonore Marguerre / Annette Markert / Klaus Florian Vogt / Mario Hoff** / with the **Prague Philharmonic Choir**

Joseph Joachim Naxos
Violin Concerto op. 3 / Violin Concerto in the Hungarian Style op. 11
conductor: **Michael Halász** / soloist: **Suyoen Kim**

Richard Strauss Naxos
Sinfonia domestica op. 53 / *Metamorphosen*, A study for 23 Solo Strings
conductor: Antoni **Wit**

Richard Strauss cpo
Josephslegende op. 63
conductor: Stefan Solyom

Richard Strauss Naxos
Four Last Songs op. posth. / *Six Songs after poems by Clemens von Brentano* op. 68 /
Ariadne auf Naxos op. 60 (excerpts)
conductor: **Michael Halász** / soloist: **Ricarda Merbeth**

Richard Strauss Naxos
An Alpine Symphony op. 64 („Editor's choice" of the Gramophone Magazine / „CD of the Month" of the BBC Magazine 8/2006)
conductor: **Antoni Wit**

Walter Braunfels OehmsClassics
Orchestral Songs Vol. I
conductor: **Hansjörg Albrecht** / soloists: **Valentina Farcas, Klaus Florian Vogt, Michael Volle**



Franz Liszt cpo

The Legend of Saint Elizabeth

Oratorio for Soloists, Chorus and Orchestra

conductor: **Carl St. Clair** / soloists: **Melanie Diener / Dagmar Pecková / Mario Hoff / Renatus Meszar / Alexander Günther / with the Hungarian Radio Choir**

Franz Liszt Naxos

Hungarian Rhapsodies No. 1-6

conductor: **Arthur Fagen**

Liszt in Weimar ars vivendi

Mazeppa, Orpheus, Mephisto waltz, Tasso, Les preludes / Symphonie poems by Franz Liszt

conductor: **George Alexander Albrecht**

Masters of the Goethe Era Capriccio

Musical works by Ernst Wilhelm Wolff, Carl Eberwein, Franz Seraph, Destouches, Anna Amalia (Duchesse of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach) and Johann Friedrich Reichardt

conductor: **Peter Gülke**

Humperdinck, Wagner, Strauss in Weimar ars vivendi

Engelbert Humperdinck: *Hansel and Gretel* (symphonic excerpts) Richard Wagner *Lohengrin*

Preludes to Act I and 3 Richard Strauss: *Macbeth* op. 23 / *Don Juan* op. 20

conductor: **George Alexander Albrecht**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart arte nova/bmg

Concerto for Clarinet & Orchestra A major K. 622 / Symphony No. 41 C major K. 551

Conductor: **George Alexander Albrecht** / soloist: **Ralph Marino**

Wilhelm Furtwängler

Symphony No. 1 H minor arte nova/bmg

Symphony No. 2 E minor arte nova/bmg

Symphony No. 3 C-sharp minor arte nova/bmg

conductor: **George Alexander Albrecht**

DVD / Blu-Ray

Der Ring des Nibelungen by Richard Wagner / Arthaus Musik

Das Rheingold – Die Walküre – Siegfried - Goetterdaemmerung

conductor: Carl St. Clair

director: Michael Schulz, set design: Dirk Becker / costume design: Renée Listerdal

soloists: Catherine Foster, Kirsten Blanck, Nadine Weissmann, Christine Hansmann, Marietta Zumbelt, Norbert Schmittberg, Johnny van Hal, Renatus Mészár, Erin Caves, Frieder Aurich, Tomas Moewes, Hidekazu Tsumaya

Live recording in 2008 directed by Brooks Riley