

Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz

The Young Symphony

Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz, The Young Symphony, was founded in 1973 and has since developed into one of the finest youth orchestras in Germany.

For the past 30 years, about one hundred young musicians gather three times a year to be trained in symphonic music. The state's most talented students between 12 and 19 years of age are invited to perform under the guidance of dedicated professional music teachers. Often, the orchestra members themselves find new talents to join the orchestra. In addition to those, students are recommended by music and instrument teachers. If positions are limited, auditions are held to select the best instrumentalist. Since 1988, newcomers can join the "Junior Orchestra" as the first step to become a member of The Young Symphony.

Hermann Josef Lentz founded the orchestra and was its first executive director from 1973-1983; Hellmuth Geldsetzer succeeded Mr. Lentz and served from 1983-1988, and Klaus-Martin Heinz directed from 1988 to 1999. Since 1999, Miroslaw B. Fojtzik is the executive director of The Young Symphony, Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz.

The conductors vary from project to project. Usually an experienced conductor supervises the young musicians, although occasionally conducting duties are taken by promising young talents. For the past several years, Klaus Arp, conducting professor at the College of Music Mannheim-Heidelberg, frequently worked with the young musicians. Since 1977, Michael Luig, music professor at the College of Music in Cologne, has conducted the orchestra regularly and has shaped it through his continuous and intensive work.

The high standard of the LJO is documented in many radio and television performances, record albums, and CD productions.

The belief that training in classical music is greatly enhanced by historical, social, and cultural education finds support in the remarkable travel activity of the youth orchestra. Concert tours took the orchestra throughout Europe and the Middle East, including visits to Austria, France, England, Italy, Sweden, Israel, Greece, Spain, Mexico, South Africa, Poland, Czech Republic and China.

Furthermore, the orchestra travelled several times to the United States of America (Chicago, Michigan, Florida) and to Mexico. The concerts in California, October 2003, were greatly appreciated by the audiences.

The Young Symphony, Landesjugendorchester Rheinland-Pfalz, is sponsored by the Ministry of Culture Affairs in Mainz. It receives generous support from the non-profit supporting association "LJO-Förderkreis" under the chairmanship of Dr. Ivo Meinhold-Heerlein. This association has provided the orchestra with instruments, supports music education of students from indigent backgrounds and sponsors CD productions and concert tours. The association members and the executive board hope to continue to contribute to the high level of music education of the talented young people in Rheinland-Pfalz.

For information about ongoing projects or to order CD recordings, please visit the orchestra's website: www.ljo-rlp.de